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ARAB TIMES

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Saudis ban Thai workers after killings

Royal Thai embassy expresses regret

RIYADH, Feb 3, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia took its angry reaction to the murder of three of its diplomats in Thailand a step further by stopping the entry of Thai workers, a newspaper reported today.

Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz was quoted in the Saudi daily Al Jazeera as saying that "the necessary measures for halting the arrivals of labour from Thailand were taken."

He described the murders as "a horrendous matter that has shocked and pained us all," adding that "King Fahd is deeply concerned about his sons."

There was no immediate first-hand confirmation of Prince Ahmed's statements.

The Royal Thai embassy said it had not been officially informed of the visa ban, but it issued a statement expressing "profound sorrow" over the assassinations and saying that painful as it is, the sad incident would not adversely affect the ties of friendship between Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

"The Royal Thai embassy is keen to state that the incident will not harm the ties of friendship existing between the two countries," the statement said.

It said the authorities in Bangkok were undertaking serious measures to uncover the culprits and would present the assassins for trial once uncovered.

It offered condolences to the families of the

deceased.

King Fahd received messages of condolences and condemnation of assassinations from King Hussein of Jordan and Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The coffins with the bodies of the three Saudi diplomats were flown in last night aboard a special Saudi jet ordered by the king. Later they were taken to their hometowns around the kingdom where Saudi princes led the funeral prayers.

The deputy governor of Riyadh, Prince Sattam Bin Abdul Aziz, who led an official delegation to the airport, told reporters, "these are three martyrs who died for their religion and homeland ... at the hands of evil."

They have been identified as second secretary and consular head Abdullah Abdul-Rahman Al Basri, 32, consular officer Fahd Abdullah Al Bahi, 35 and telex operator Ahmed Abdullah Al Saif, 26. One of the three was reported to have a pregnant wife.

Riyadh has already summoned the Thai ambassador to deliver a protest, warning that it will be forced to close its embassy in Bangkok if the Thai authorities cannot track down the assassins.

Two Thais who had been convicted for murder and rape and were awaiting execution, were beheaded after this Friday's

(Continued on Page 9)



Bodies of Saudis killed in Bangkok arrive in Riyadh

NEWSWATCH

Sri Lanka
ON the occasion of National Day of Sri Lanka, Arab Times has brought out a 6-page (11-16) supplement today.

Philippines Digest

THE Philippines Digest, which normally appears every Sunday, will be appearing tomorrow, Feb 5. Do not forget to buy your copy!

Front dissolved

BUCHAREST, Feb 3, (Reuter): The 145-member council of the National Salvation Front, Romania's provisional Parliament, voted to dissolve itself today to open the way for a new multi-party body to take over.

Cazimir Ionescu, the council's vice-president, told a news conference the decision would not affect the front-appointed government, which would continue to rule until elections in May.

Jaffer dies

ISLAMABAD, Feb 3, (Kuma): Ahmed E.H. Jaffer, a veteran parliamentarian and a close associate of founder of Pakistan Mohammed Ali Jinnah, died in a military hospital in Rawalpindi this morning.

His body was flown to Karachi for burial. Jaffer was a leading business magnate of Pakistan and had also set up his business houses in the Arab Gulf states.

Gold aboard jet

KATHMANDU, Feb 3, (UPI): Nearly 33 pounds (15 kg) of gold was found unclaimed aboard a Hong Kong Dragon Air aircraft soon after it landed today in the Nepalese capital from the island, customs officials at Katmandu airport said.

Artificial fur cap

NEW DELHI, Feb 3, (UPI): Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has given up wearing authentic lambkin caps and switched to those made of artificial material following appeals from animal rights activists, the Press Trust of India said today.

The Indian prime minister, in a letter to the chairman of 'Beauty Without Cruelty,' a charitable trust for animal rights, said he has stopped using fur caps, the news agency reported.

Indo-Nepal talks

KATHMANDU, Feb 3, (UPI): India and Nepal, enjoying a warming of relations under newly elected Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, have set a date for their first formal talks since the defeat of his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi, officials said today.

The talks, aimed primarily at ending Indian sanctions on trade and transit that have contributed to serious economic problems in Nepal, will be held for two days beginning Feb 13 in New Delhi, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light north easterly wind changes gradually to moderate southeasterly wind and a slight chance for rain. State of sea: Moderate to rough. High water: 6.50 am, 5.24 pm. Low water: 12.00 pm, 11.41 noon. Source: 6.56 am. Sunrise: 5.28 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 16°C 61°F. Almadhi: 17°C 57°F. Falak: 15°C 59°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 8°C 46°F. Almadhi: 11°C 52°F. Falak: 10°C 50°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 16°C 61°F. Almadhi: 17°C 57°F. Falak: 14°C 57°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 87 per cent. Almadhi: 94 per cent. Falak: 95 per cent.



A frightened Muslim man flees to a safer place in West Beirut, carrying his two small children with him. (Reuter wirephoto)

Protest strike shuts Srinagar

Pakistan to discuss situation

SRINAGAR, India, (Agencies): At least four people were killed yesterday in the Kashmir valley, including the first Hindu civilian, after an eight-day lull in violence, officials said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will discuss the situation in Kashmir in two separate meetings.

The latest deaths raised to 76 the number of people killed, including Muslims and Indian troops, since the government ordered a crackdown Jan 20 on the Muslim movement for secession of Kashmiri region from northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

Kashmiri militants at first demanded union with Pakistan but recently they have demanded a separate neutral nation that if formed would be sandwiched next to India, Pakistan and China.

New Delhi has been accusing neighbouring Pakistan of fomenting the trouble in Kashmir. Islamabad has been denying the charges but the people of Kashmir had a right to self-determination.

Last week's bitter trading of accusations culminated in increased Pakistani and Indian military

activities near their border.

The Indian people and army are prepared to give a befitting reply if Islamabad wanted a confrontation, said Prime Minister V.P. Singh in Calcutta, UNI reported.

In Srinagar, the largest town in Kashmir, Hindu businessman Satish Kumar Tikkoo was shot and killed in the violence. Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tikkoo was killed because the militants suspected him of being a police informer.

A government statement said militants and paramilitary federal troops exchanged gunfire in the old district of Srinagar, injuring two people. It also said two people who hurled a petrol bomb at a police bunker were arrested.

In the neighbouring town of Sopore, at least three people were killed when paramilitary police opened fire on a mob gathered in defiance of curfew restrictions early last morning, said police officials in Jammu, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government today lifted its

(Continued on Page 2)

Shells rock Beirut

Aoun forces defect; 154 killed, 597 injured in fighting

BEIRUT, Feb 3, (Agencies): Shells crashed into Beirut's Muslim and Christian sectors today, shattering a Vatican-brokered ceasefire between warring Christian forces only three hours after it went into effect.

Police said at least two people were killed and 11 wounded in the first burst of shelling at 4.15 pm (14.15 GMT). It targeted residential districts of Muslim West Beirut, outside the combat zone, and the capital's eastern sector.

That raised the overall toll to 154 killed and 597 wounded in the five-day showdown between renegade Gen. Michel Aoun's nearly 20,000 troops and the 6,000-strong

Lebanese Forces militia of Samir Geagea.

The casualties included 20 killed and 75 wounded in West Beirut.

Civilians who had emerged from dark, waterless bomb shelters to inspect property damage were caught unprotected by the barrage.

The ceasefire was called by the Vatican through Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente and Maronite Catholic patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, who have worked repeatedly to end the clashes.

"For the fourth time, we urge all parties to cease fire and put a final end to this bloody tragedy," Sfeir said in his appeal.

ANC to continue guerrilla attacks

SA implements changes



Mandela with wife Winnie. (Reuter wirephoto)

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 3, (Agencies): Long-silenced anti-apartheid activists began speaking out and some blacks celebrated today as the government implemented sweeping political changes announced by President F.W. de Klerk.

Reaction in black townships was subdued, with no celebrations in the largest black city, Soweto, home to 2.5 million people.

But about 8,000 people, including many elders and children, crammed into a stadium in Alexandra, a township of more than 100,000 people near Johannesburg, and chanted "Viva ANC" for the newly unbanned African National Congress while swaying to the rhythm of liberation songs.

The day before, De Klerk had legalised the ANC, the main guerrilla group fighting white rule, and lifted restrictions on 60 opposition groups and 374 individuals.

The African National Congress (Continued on Page 2)

Tomorrow!



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Ex-lift girl among Europe's richest women

LONDON, Feb 3, (Reuter): Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands rub shoulders with a former lift girl and a five-year-old child in a new list of Europe's wealthiest women.

Queen Elizabeth's vast fortune, put at £5.3 billion (\$8.9 billion), also makes her the world's richest woman, according to Harpers and Queen magazine.

She owns 25 crowns and tiaras, strings of pearls and a magnificent art collection. Her landholdings are vast and she owns shares put at £2.4 billion (\$4 billion).

Second on the list is Queen Beatrix, with £2.8 billion (\$4.7 billion), and third is Johanna Quandt who owns two-thirds of West Germany's BMW car company and lays claim to wealth of £2.1 billion (\$3.5 billion).

Fourth

is Grete Schickendantz, owner of a West German mail order firm, with £1.2 billion (\$2 billion) and fifth is Liliane Bettencourt, owner of the French L'Oréal cosmetics firm with £950 million (\$1.7 billion).

Next is Madeleine Dumas, who inherited her husband's aircraft firm and now has £530 million (\$1 billion).

Seventh is Adriana Osejas-Rouvier, aged 5, the daughter of Christina Osejas who died in 1986. Adriana will inherit £500 million (\$840 million) when she is 18.

Eighth and ninth are Spanish sisters Alicia and Esther Koplowitz with £375 million (\$630 million) each.

And 10th with £300 million (\$550 million) is Jaani Spies-Kjaer, a former lift girl who went up in the world after catching the eye of her boss at the age of 16 and inheriting a Scandinavian travel empire.

OIC condemns Indian atrocity

Pak Parliament to meet

(Continued from Page 1) curfew for a planned 12 hours, but a strike called by the militants kept many shops closed, witnesses said.

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front called the strike by word of mouth last night and early today, Srinagar shopkeepers told local journalists.

Today's strike in Srinagar was to protest the Sopore deaths, shopkeepers told Kaiser Mirza, a local journalist. The curfew relaxation began at 5 am (2330 GMT Friday) and was scheduled to end at 5 pm.

Mirza said most shops did not open today morning when the curfew was lifted and the few shops that did open soon put down their shutters when owners learned of the strike call.

It was not immediately clear if the shops were closed fearing attacks by the militants or in sympathy with the separatist cause.

When curfew relaxations began a week ago, vegetable shops and grocery stores were crowded and streets were filled with people and traffic.

Today morning, small groups of men stood at the street corners but there was little traffic, Mirza said.

Meanwhile, the government did not enforce an order expelling reporters for the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse from Srinagar.

The reporters, Dilip Ganguly of the AP and Anil Pema of AFP, were the last two correspondents for foreign media in the city when they were ordered expelled by a Srinagar magistrate on the grounds their presence was "prejudicial to the security of the state."

Twelve people were shot and wounded yesterday in a gunbattle between police and Kashmiri protesters trying to march on the Indian consulate in Karachi, police said.

Kashmiri protest leaders said police fired tear-gas and gunshots at a peaceful rally of 5,000 people protesting at New Delhi's crackdown in Kashmir.

Police said some demonstrators armed with handguns attacked a traffic police kiosk and fired at two policemen, wounding them seriously.

Police opened fire after tear-gas failed to disperse the crowd which threw stones at police preventing them getting within 200 metres (yards) of the consulate. The demonstrators burned effigies of V.P. Singh.

The Pakistan government has invited heads of political parties represented in the Parliament and

provincial assemblies to a conference on Kashmir tomorrow, sources said today.

Convened under the direction of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, it would be held at the prime minister's house in Islamabad.

To be held in camera, it would also be attended by senior officials of the Foreign and Defence ministries, who would give a comprehensive briefing to the participants on the latest situation in Kashmir.

There was no confirmed word as to who would preside over the meeting but informed sources said that Benazir was keen to chair provided her doctors allowed her to do so. Otherwise her mother, senior federal minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, who is currently acting as prime minister, was most likely to chair the important meeting.

Benazir is currently at home in Karachi recovering from the birth of her second child by a Caesarean operation in a Karachi hospital on Jan 25.

Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has summoned a joint meeting of the Parliament on Feb 10, an official announcement said in Islamabad this afternoon.

Members of the Senate, the upper house of parliament, and National Assembly, the lower house, will debate the latest situation in Kashmir.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has accused New Delhi of using "blind repression" against Muslims in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"The (Indian) police force ... did not flinch from using the most reprehensible methods and repression," said an OIC statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus.

The OIC appealed to the Indian government to settle the crisis peacefully.

"The general secretariat strongly denounces and condemns this blind repression ... and underlines the futility of these attempts to deny the legitimate aspirations of the population of Kashmir by force," OIC said.

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Kashmiris flee from beatings

Kashmir may erupt like a volcano, warns Abdullah

BAGH, Pakistan, Feb 3. (Reuters): The first refugees to reach Pakistan from Indian-controlled Kashmir said that they fled their homes to escape Indian beatings.

Nine Indian Muslims from a village near the ceasefire line that divides Indian from Pakistani Kashmir told how they and their families waded through deep snow at night to evade Indian patrols.

A total of 36 men, women and children made the dangerous journey and more are expected to follow, said a top official in Bagh, a small town about 30 km (20 miles) from the line.

"We were tortured by Indian authorities who accused us of being used for carrying arms," said 25-year-old Abdul Hamid.

"These people used to come to our homes and take us to the police and military posts. There they beat us."

There was no independent confirmation of their charges and only one man, Latif Shah, could show a hand as evidence of ill treatment.

"They took me to a military post and they beat me with a bamboo stick," he said. "They were accusing me of helping the freedom-fighters."

Huddled under quilts in a draughty religious school in Bagh, Hamid and his fellow villagers said their troubles began about three months ago as a Muslim rebellion flared in Indian Kashmir.

More than 60 people died in anti-government protests last week as India poured security forces into the Kashmir valley to try to stamp out the secessionist movement.

The refugees left their isolated mountain village, Azad Barra, separately 12 days ago.

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After spending up to two days in the snowy forests they managed to slip across the ceasefire line only to be interrogated by the Pakistani army for five days to make sure they were genuine.

"I spent two days in the forest with my wife," Hamid said. "We made it by midnight through the forests. Because the snow was falling they were not patrolling."

India accuses Pakistan of aiding

Kashmir's Himalayan valley, once a tourist haven, as Indian troops and militants demanding independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan battled for supremacy.

"I must have failed my people somewhere. I must be responsible," said Abdullah, whose administration was widely accused of corruption and incompetence in the face of a mounting secessionist campaign.

Abdullah, twice chief minister of Kashmir, urged

fresh elections in India's only Muslim-majority

state to counter the militant campaign.

"You have to create confidence, bring your pride down and say you made mistakes," he said in an interview. "Let the temperature come down and then hold free and fair elections."

Some Indian politicians said public opinion in Kashmir was alienated by rigged state elections in 1987. That poll brought Abdullah's National Conference Party to power in a coalition with the Congress Party of then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said on Tuesday that Islamabad would not compromise in its stand that Kashmir should be allowed to choose their future in a plebiscite.

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Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SAN DIEGO: A San Diego company that advertises indoor greenhouses in several magazines, including one targeted at marijuana users, denied Friday it encourages the illegal cultivation of the drug.

Pyramic Industries Inc. II was reacting to news stories, including one by United Press International, reporting it had been named business of the year in manufacturing by the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

The stories noted that the company's sole product is an indoor horticulture system advertised in several magazines, including the pro-marijuana High Times.

A statement by company spokesman Dan Shashani claimed the coverage was "irresponsible and highly biased." (UPI)

MOSCOW: Rock carvings depicting scenes from Vedic hymns, which date back to 25 centuries before Christ, have been found in a remote corner of Soviet Asia in the Tien Shan mountains, Tass said Thursday.

The agency said the most impressive depicted a tree of life with a human figure and the sun and moon above. Others portrayed a bull, which symbolized the universe and the sun for many ancient peoples.

Aleksandr Akshev, an archaeologist from the Kazakh Academy of Sciences, said he thought the carvings were evidence that an Indo-European people once lived in this desolate region and discovered that it is a natural mountain passage from Europe and Central Asia to eastern Turkestan, China and India. An offshoot of the great silk road traversed here," Akshev said. (UPI)

LONDON: A spectacular centennial production of the Russian opera "Prince Igor" won over the Royal Opera House on Thursday night for everyone involved — except Romanian producer Andrei Serban.

There was loud boozing from several parts of the capacity audience when Serban joined the rest of the production team on stage after a performance of Aleksandr Borodin's "Prince Igor."

But Serban — who has lived in exile for 20 years — simply smiled and blew the audience a kiss. Covent Garden devotees said some people have not forgiven Serban for a lumbering production of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Fidelio" in 1986. The final "Fidelio" scene, with skeletal black-winged angels and death reapers on stilts, drew laughs. (AP)

ROME: Italian critics on Friday praised the newest film by Federico Fellini, "The Voices of the Moon," which opened this week in 170 cities throughout the country.

Scores of film buffs lined up in front of theaters to see the latest work by the director of "La Dolce Vita," "8 1/2" and "Amarcord." The movie opened on Thursday.

The Milan-based daily Corriere Della Sera described the film as being "stylistically severe," artistically superior, and professionally beyond reproach."

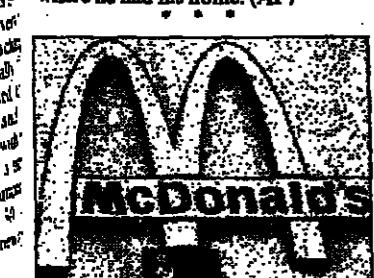
Fellini's 24th work, which is the quixotic tale of two lunatics wandering the Italian countryside, did not receive unanimous praise from its first audiences in the Italian capital, however. (AP)

DOMODOSSOLA, Italy: Giacomo Contini, a renowned linguist and Italian literary critic, died Thursday night in his native Domodossola in northern Italy, news reports said. He was 78.

Since last year, Contini has suffered from partial paralysis, but the cause of his death was not given.

Contini was a professor of philology who gained world-wide recognition for his analysis of the literary techniques used by such Italian masters of the past as Dante and Petrarch and for his critiques of his contemporaries.

Contini began his career as a professor in West Germany at the University of Freiburg. He subsequently taught at the Universities of Pisa and Florence, where he had his home. (AP)



30,000 served

More than 30,000 Soviets lined up on Gorky Street Wednesday to eat at Moscow's first and the world's biggest McDonald's — and the record-breaking opening-day throng was served with courtesy that left them in disbelief.

"We opened the doors and literally 500 people came through. It's going very exciting, ecstatic," said George Cohen, 52, president of McDonald's Canada, who worked 14 years to realize his dream of bringing McDonald's to Moscow. (Reuter wirephoto)



Royal smile



Marina weds

Princess Stephanie of Monaco and Andre (Princess Caroline's son) smile during the opening of the 15th International Circus Festival while all the artists celebrated the 25th birthday of Stephanie in Monaco on Feb 1. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Number of the beast'

UK drops unlucky 666

LONDON, Feb 3, (AP): The number 666 has been dropped from British car licence plates because some believe it is a symbol of Satan, traffic authorities said yesterday.

The decision followed several incidents in which drivers claimed to be jinxed by the 666 in their number plates, explained Jeff Mumford, senior executive officer of the policy branch of the government's Driving, Vehicle and Licensing Centre.

"It's not that we as an organization give any credence to this, but we don't want to be inadvertently causing real distress to people," he said in a telephone interview from the centre's headquarters in Swansea, Wales.

The belief that 666 represents Satan comes from Chapter 13, Verse 18 of the New Testament book of Revelation, which refers to "the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is XIX hundred threescore and six."

Among those who shun the number is Ronald

Reagan, who changed his California address from 666 to 665 St. Cloud Drive after leaving the White House.

A man from north Wales claimed that within one week his house was burglarized, a garbage truck backed into his car and he was told his water supply was poisoned, said Mumford. The man blamed his troubles on the 666 in his number plate, he said.

"Then there was a lady who claimed the car actually took hold of her and she couldn't control it. It reversed, mounted the doorstep and squashed her son's scooter. She said she stopped it only in time to prevent it crashing into the kitchen."

He also cited the case of a mother of a convicted murderer who said her son was "a quiet, home-loving boy" until his job required him to drive a van with 666 in the licence plate.

A recent television report featured a man who said he lost his family, home and business after buying a car with 666 in its licence plate.

American migrants policy reversal

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): Thousands of illegal aliens who are spouses or children of legal immigrants will be allowed to stay in the United States under a new policy unveiled yesterday by the US Immigration Commissioner, Gen. McNary.

The new policy reverses a three-year-old practice of admitting only those family members for "compelling humanitarian reasons."

McNary said the previous policy was not being administered evenhandedly by INS district offices and a result split families.

"We can enforce the law humanely," McNary told reporters at a briefing. "To split families simply encourages further violation of the law as they (illegal aliens) attempt to refute it," McNary said.

Under the new policy, spouses and unmarried children of a legal immigrant will be allowed to remain in this country if they resided here on Nov. 6, 1986 — the day the Immigration Reform and Control Act took effect.

The law granted blanket amnesty to illegal aliens who could prove they were residing in the country before Jan. 1, 1982.

It also provided immigrant status to undocumented farm workers who could prove they worked 90 days picking crops in this country during any of three years.

More than 3 million illegal aliens have been granted an amnesty under the 1986 law.

The new policy effects the spouses and children of aliens who received legal resident status under the 1986 law. These people typically followed their relatives to this country but did not arrive in time to qualify for amnesty and are still illegal aliens.

Under the Reagan administration policy reversed by McNary, INS deported only a small number of people following case-by-case reviews of some 10,000 applicants.

Man charged in child porno case

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, Feb 3, (AP): Fourteen children have been identified by their parents in nude photographs seized from the home of a day-care centre owner charged with possession of child pornography, police said.

John Shaver, 56, was charged with five counts of possessing child pornography after the photographs and magazines were found at his home last Sunday. Police say they are considering additional charges.

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Beatles may unite again

DETROIT, Feb 3. (Reuters): Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney said yesterday that there may be a reunion for the three surviving members of the band.

McCartney told a news conference some form of collaboration was possible after the conclusion of a 20-year legal battle over royalties between himself, former Beatles George

Harrison and Ringo Starr and Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, who was shot outside his Manhattan home in December 1980.

"There's a couple of projects that are possible," he said.

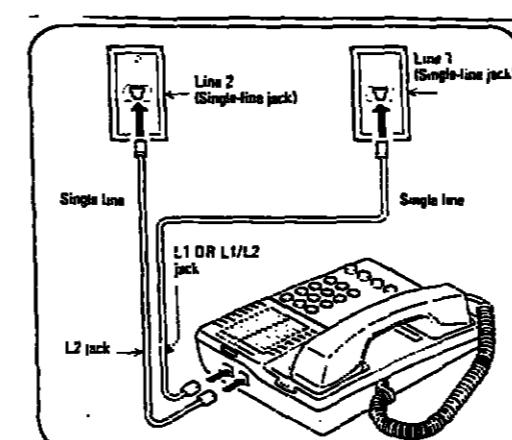
McCartney did not provide specifics and he did not say whether he had discussed the idea of a reunion with Ringo or George.

McCartney, his wife, Linda, and a four-member band are in Detroit to start the North American leg of a 1990 world tour, his first since 1976.

On the tour McCartney has been playing some Beatle hits such as "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" "Let It Be" for the first time in many years.

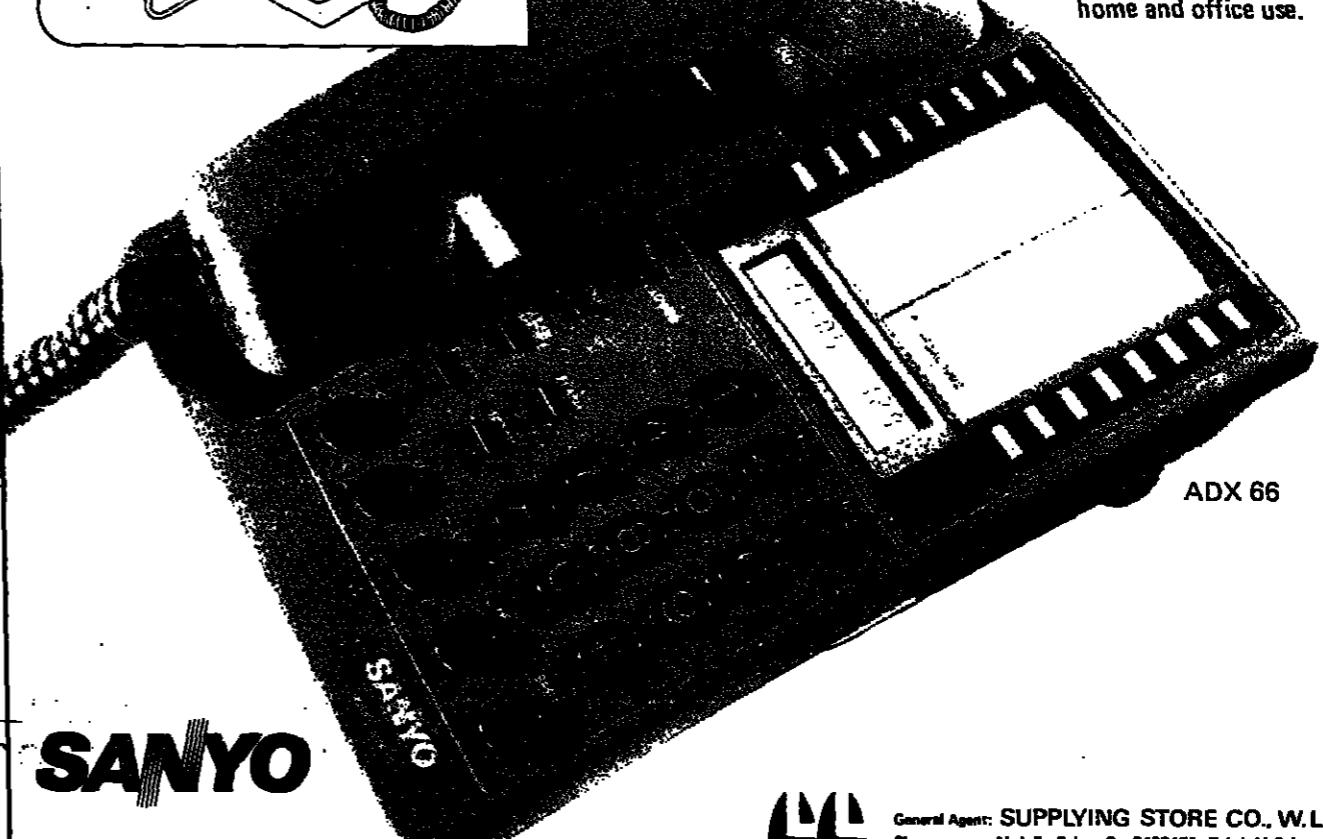
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PoW, but Noriega will be tried

MIAMI, Feb 3, (UPI): The Justice Department said it will treat deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega as a prisoner of war, but asserted its right to try him on criminal drug charges in a civilian court.

The department filed a 40-page response in Miami federal court yesterday to Noriega's claim that US district judge William Hoeveler has no jurisdiction over his case because he is a prisoner of war under the Geneva Convention.

"Nothing in the Geneva Convention provides any support for the contention that this court lacks jurisdiction to try the defendants on the criminal indictment pending against them," it said. "In fact, the Geneva Convention specifically contemplates that in appropriate circumstances prisoners of war may be prosecuted in the civilian courts of the detaining country."

Co-defendant Lt Col Luis Del Cid also claimed protection under the Geneva Convention because, like Noriega, he too surrendered after the US military invasion in Panama Dec. 20.

The motion said Del Cid, a former member of the Panamanian defence forces, would be afforded the same protection as Noriega, but that he also should not be permitted to escape prosecution on drug-related charges.

Defence attorneys said they would not respond until they had thoroughly read the government document.

One of the defence claims involving the prisoner of war issue was whether Noriega was able to be prosecuted for crimes that occurred before the US invasion.

The defence claims the Geneva Convention prohibits criminal charges on crimes that occurred before an 'act of war'.

The government's response said the law clearly states that 'prisoners of war may be sentenced for offenses against the detaining power as long as the prisoners of war are subject to the same penalties as which members of the armed forces of the detaining power would be subject.'

It did not grant prisoner of war status for either criminal defendant, but said the United States would extend the appropriate privileges to the men, whether either are found to qualify for PoW status by a world court.

"In sum, there is no merit to the defendants' contention that the Geneva Convention bars this court from exercising jurisdiction over them," it said.

Thus, even if Noriega and Del Cid are considered to be 'prisoners of war' within the meaning of the Geneva Convention, they are not entitled to dismissal of the charges against them.

The document said it was not necessary for Hoeveler to address the question of whether the Geneva Convention applies for two reasons. The first, it said, was that the United States has decided 'as a matter of policy' to give Noriega and Del Cid PoW protection.

Defence attorneys in challenging Hoeveler's jurisdiction over the case have declared that as a prisoner of war he should be sent to a neutral country or housed in PoW camp.

They said they had determined that Noriega was a prisoner of war and it would be up to a world court to decide whether he should be stripped of that status.

Keba Mbaye, vice-president of the International Court of Justice, said earlier this week that Noriega would not be able to petition the court privately. He said the court can only handle 'disputes by states which are brought by states.'

Mbaye, a native of Senegal who was in the Netherlands at the time, said the ICI's jurisdiction is valid only if both countries in a dispute accept the jurisdiction of the court.

He said the United States withdrew from the court's jurisdiction after a case several years ago between Nicaragua and the United States. There was no indication in Friday's document, signed by lead prosecutors Pat Sullivan and Myles Maiman, that the US government was prepared to return to the World Court's jurisdiction in the Noriega case.

Heroin seized, 21 arrested in Spain

MALAGA, Spain, Feb 3, (UPI): Police in southern Spain have arrested 21 foreigners, most of them Turks, on suspicion of drug smuggling, local officials said yesterday.

Police also seized 13 kg (28 pounds) of heroin with an estimated street value of \$18 million, pistols and large quantities of cash, they said.

The 21 arrested included 17 Turks, an Iranian, a Yugoslav, a Dutch and an Italian.

Body shape can help determine breast cancer risk

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 3, (AP): A new study indicates that weight distribution plays a role in the risk of breast cancer, with "apple" shapes having a greater risk than women with "pear"-shaped bodies.

Women can gauge their risk of breast cancer by dividing their waist measurements by their hip measurements, researchers from the University of South Florida said in a study published in the Philadelphia-based *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

In a separate study, Texas researchers said they have identified an enzyme that may help predict which breast-cancer patients are most likely to suffer a relapse.

Breast cancer is expected to strike an estimated 150,000 US women and cause 44,000 deaths this year in the United States.

The Florida study, led by David Schapiro of the H Lee Moffitt Cancer Centre and Research Institute at the

University of South Florida, found that women who carry their weight around the middle are more at risk for developing breast cancer than those who bulge at the hips and thighs.

"When we looked at women, obesity was not a factor. It's where you have the fat," Schapiro said. "An overweight pear is still at lower risk than someone leaner and apple shaped."

"This refines our information," said oncologist Dr Paul F Engstrom of the Fox Chase Cancer Centre. "Not all

obesity is the same."

Previous studies had established a link between obesity and breast cancer, but Schapiro said this may be because women tend to gain weight in their abdomen.

Fat cells in the upper parts of the body, he said, are larger and have a different metabolic and hormonal structure than those in the lower part of the body.

The Florida team studied 216 breast-cancer patients diagnosed from August

1987 to June 1988 and 432 healthy women. The subjects ranged in age from 25 to 83.

Breast-cancer patients had significantly greater deposits of upper body fat, plus greater waist-to-hip and abdomen-to-thigh ratios, researchers found.

Schapiro said women whose waist-to-hip ratio is 0.77 to 0.80 are classified as "mildly pear shaped," while women with ratios of less than 0.73 are "mildly apple shaped" and at low risk of getting breast cancer, he said.

a risk equal to having either a sister or mother who had breast cancer.

Women whose ratio is higher than 0.80 are "very apple shaped," Schapiro said, and are six times as likely to develop breast cancer, a risk equal to having both a mother and sister who had breast cancer.

Ratios of 0.73 to 0.76 define a woman as "mildly pear shaped," while women with ratios of less than 0.73 are "mildly apple shaped" and at low risk of getting breast cancer, he said.

Less meat, bikes, solar power the way

For a safe eco-future ...

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (Reuter): A vegetarian meal in every pot, a solar heater on every roof and a bicycle in every garage are imperatives for a ecologically safe future, the Worldwatch Institute environmental group said today.

In its "State of the World" report for 1990, the Washington research group said a world dedicated to recycling food and energy efficiency and slow population growth must be built within 40 years if modern civilization is to survive.

"If we have not succeeded by 2030, environmental degradation and economic decline will be feeding on each other, causing social structures to disintegrate," said institute president Lester

Brown.

Such declarations are not new for Brown, whose group has been predicting a dire fate in annual reports since 1984, and who is known for commuting via bicycle in a city where luxury cars are probably more common.

This year's report devotes its final chapter to a detailed description of the "sustainable society" of tomorrow that Brown said is the earth's last chance.

"A sustainable society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations," the Worldwatch report said.

It is filled with images of electricity-generating

windmills in Northern Europe, of solar water heaters meeting every household's needs, and hydrogen-powered cars and human-powered bicycles filling city streets.

Reducing dependency on fossil fuels will be forestall global warming caused by the atmospheric accumulation of carbon dioxide and other gases which threatens to wreak havoc in world agriculture, Worldwatch said.

Also, it said people in developed countries need to eat less meat as the food demands of a growing population will make it more difficult to use grain for feeding livestock or poultry.

US jets look for cartel missiles

BOGOTA, Feb 3, (UPI): Two US Drug Enforcement jets have been flying reconnaissance flights over Colombian territory since Wednesday looking for secret airports and hidden drug cartel planes possibly armed with anti-aircraft missiles, a civil aeronautics board official said yesterday.

Two weeks ago the American CBS television network reported US secret service agents were investigating reports the notorious Colombian drug cartels were smuggling SA-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles into the country to shoot down Air Force One carrying President Bush to Cartagena for the Andean drug summit in February.

The reports were later denied by both the Colombian government and the US embassy in Bogota.

"Earlier this week, the board's operations chief, Col Jorge Gonzalez, authorized the flights, refueling and maintenance stops at national airports for the US Drug Enforcement Administration's turbocharge commanders, the board reported.

"It's a security mission to try to identify the airports and verify if those places there are missile-firing apparatus," an aeronautics official said.

A spokesman for the US embassy in Bogota confirmed the flights but would not give any details on their mission.

The US planes, which can fly at altitudes up to 40,000 feet (12,000 m) speeds of 250 knots (460 kph) per hour, are equipped with high-powered spy cameras that can capture images from high altitudes without being detected by radar, the aeronautics official said.

Bush is to arrive Feb 15, and will be flown by helicopter to Manta-Ho Island, in the day off Cartagena, for the meeting with the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia and possibly Peru to put together a hemispheric drug strategy.

Last week some \$1,000 security agents began prowling the streets of the Caribbean port city to prevent a possible drug cartel attempt to sabotage the summit during Bush's five-hour visit.

A Defense Ministry official told reporters the flights were part of routine efforts to spot clandestine drug trafficker airstrips, though this time he said they were searching for planes possibly equipped with missiles.

Authorities Friday discovered the blindfolded, bullet-riddled bodies of 10 men and a woman some 25 miles (40 km) outside of Bogota, a radio station reported.

Seven of the victims, as far unidentified, were found in Gavayabato, Cundinamarca state, while four others were discovered in nearby Chirajara, Cundinamarca radio said.

Investigators were dispatched to the area to identify the victims, who were apparently bound by their captors and then shot with 9 mm bullets.

A TNA machine is at work inspec-



Flooded

Alone farmhouse is swamped in Worcestershire, England, after 24 hours of rain caused rivers to flood the area. More rain and gales are on the way as families fight to mop up the damage.

A violent windstorm gusting at up to 104 mph (168 kph) disrupted northern France yesterday, killing several people and disrupting air and rail traffic, authorities said.

At least five people were killed during the tempest that forced air traffic controllers at Paris' Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports to suspend virtually all departures.

Railroad links from Paris to the northern region of Brittany and on the outskirts of the northeastern city of Troyes were cut after overhead electrical cables and trees fell onto the tracks. The Paris Gare Saint-Lazare railroad station was closed to traffic last afternoon.

The dead included two people in the Val de Marne area — a woman crushed by the roof of her home and a man killed by a falling fence. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bomb-sniffers are unreliable

Plastics can't be detected

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP):

A new device designed to detect plastic explosives in airplane luggage is deficient and probably could not have discovered the bomb which destroyed Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, members of a Presidential Terrorism Commission said yesterday.

Panelists at a hearing of the Presidential Commission on Terrorism Aviation Security and Terrorism sharply questioned plans by the Federal Aviation Administration to require the airline industry to buy hundreds of the bomb detecting devices, complaining that they have not been adequately tested.

But Monte Belger, the FAA's associate administrator for aviation standards, said he believes the sophisticated detection device is the best of its kind in the world, has been adequately tested and should be deployed.

In a three-hour hearing, the commission also was told that the device — which employs a technique called thermal neutron analysis, or TNA — will cost far more than original estimates of between \$700,000 to \$1 million each.

Belger said the first five TNA machines actually will cost a total of \$15 million or about \$2.5 million each because of the rush nature of the order.

The TNA machines use neutrons — a type of subatomic particle — to probe luggage for the presence of nitrogen, a major component of explosives.

It has also long been used in short-term therapy to relieve symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and night sweats.

The advisory committee, during a two-day meeting at FDA headquarters which began on Thursday, noted that some studies have found that oestrogen therapy alone may slightly increase the risk of breast cancer with long-term use.

It also noted studies demonstrating that adding progestin to oestrogen therapy lowered the risk of uterine cancer.

Hormone risk to cancer allayed

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (Reuter): A US government advisory panel has dismissed fears that long-term use of a combination hormone therapy widely used by post-menopausal women might lead to a significant increase in the risk of breast cancer.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fertility and maternal health drugs advisory committee has concluded unanimously that the available research data does not show that taking a combination of progestin and oestrogen alters the risk of breast cancer in post-menopausal women.

A study published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine in August claimed that the drug combination increased breast cancer risk four-fold, particularly for women who used it for 10 years or more.

Other, earlier studies had suggested the therapy might actually decrease the risk of breast cancer.

Oestrogen is increasingly prescribed for post-menopausal women over long periods of time because of its ability to prevent osteoporosis and because recent studies have shown it to protect against heart disease.

It has also long been used in short-term therapy to relieve symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes and night sweats.

The advisory committee, during a two-day meeting at FDA headquarters which began on Thursday, noted that some studies have found that oestrogen therapy alone may slightly increase the risk of breast cancer with long-term use.

The two — Jose Orlando Figueroa, 31, and Antonio Zalanga, 46 — remained under police guard Wednesday at two hospitals. Both will be arrested on drug charges upon their release from the hospital, said Nassau county police spokesman officer James Higgins.

Latin America

Duarte asks doctor to let him die

Former Salvadoran president Jose Napoleon Duarte, terminally ill with cancer, has asked his doctor to let him die, his personal physician said on Thursday.

In a telephone interview with United Press International, Saca said Duarte told him: "It does not make sense to go on living this way, and he preferred that we let him die." (UPI)

US general removed for opposing

The former head of US military forces in Panama and Central America said Thursday he was removed less than three months before "Operation Just Cause" for his opposition to the Panamanian invasion.

Retired Army Gen. Fred F. Woerner said he stepped down on Oct. 1, 1989, as commander of the US Southern Command for "political reasons."

President George Bush preferred to have

UN mediation ruled out

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said on Friday he is ready to negotiate with leftist rebels in the Central American country but ruled out direct UN mediation, saying the talks "have to be between Salvadorans."

Cristiani, who appealed to congressional leaders on Thursday not to cut military aid to El Salvador, said UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has agreed only to talk with rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, to try to bring them to the bargaining table.

"I don't think the FMLN should continue to insist on what the role of the secretary-general is if he continues to go by what he sees as the role, dictated by a UN resolution," Cristiani said at a National Press Club conference. (UPI)

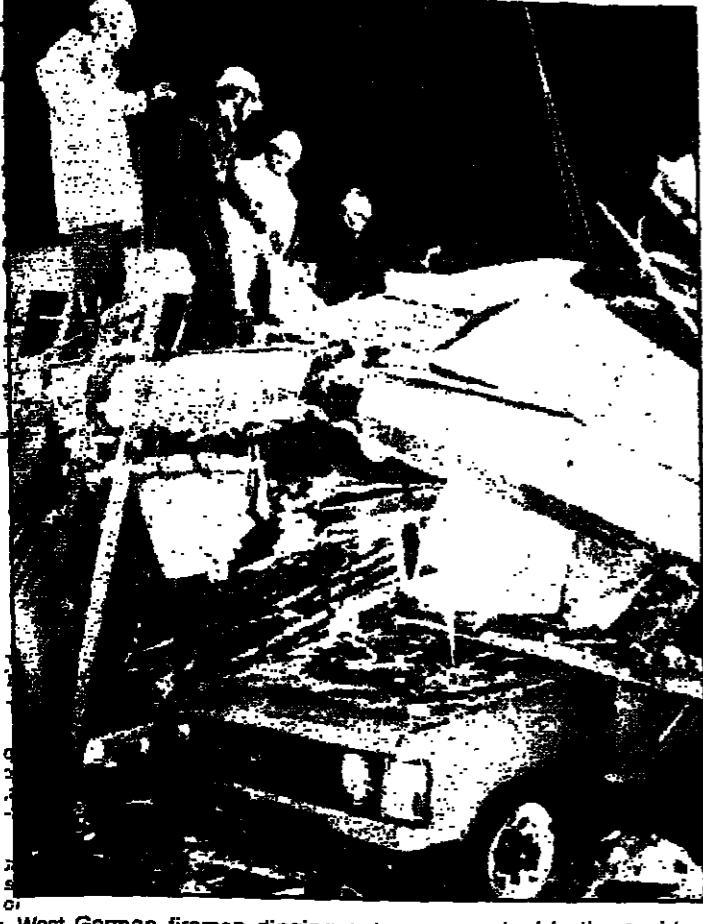
Some of the stories are mind-boggling. Several years ago, a man was found with 445 condoms in his system; last year, a man loaded with 4.6 pounds (2 kilograms) of

cocaine was arrested. Customs agents spent 23 days at the hospital with one suspect until he passed all the drugs he carried.

The carriers are likely able to swallow such large amounts by anaesthetizing their throats and sliding the condoms down, said Dr Farouq Khan, chairman of the department of medicine at the Nassau county medical centre.

"This is the hardest method for us to detect. And the people involved are becoming a little more sophisticated," said Conforto, one of 60 customs agents checking out an average 100 international flights each day. Many of the mules make multiple trips carrying drugs, officials said.

Potential swallows are identified by customs agents through questioning, said Conforto. They are then taken to hospitals for X-rays. Conforto said the agents' success rate is 65 per cent to 70 per cent.



West German firemen digging out a car crushed in the accident. (Reuter wirephoto)

Train crash kills sixteen

Collision in W. Germany

RUESELHEIM, West Germany, Feb 3. (UPI): Two commuter trains collided killing at least 16 people and leaving 86 injured. In the worst railroad crash for 15 years in West Germany, police and railroad officials said today.

They said several of the 35 people who sustained serious injuries were in a critical condition this morning, about 15 hours after the crash occurred.

Regional government officials today thanked United States army troops from nearby barracks, who rushed to the scene of the accident with stretchers and first aid kits and joined rescue teams.

Railroad officials said the crash occurred after the driver of a train heading for Frankfurt ignored a stop signal and rammed into an oncoming train just outside the Rueselheim station, in central Germany.

He said it was not immediately clear why an automatic device that should have stopped the train after it passed the signal did not function.

The first cars of each train smashed into each other. One train derailed and several cars crashed onto a parking lot, crushing several automobiles.

Turkey expels Greek diplomat

Tit-for-tat

ANKARA, Feb 3. (Reuter): Turkey today ordered the tit-for-tat expulsion of a Greek diplomat in a row over Greece's Muslim minority that threatens to shatter rapprochement between the long-time foes.

A Foreign Ministry official said the Greek Consul-General in Istanbul, Elias Kitis, would have to leave if Athens confirmed it had ordered the expulsion of a Turkish diplomat based in the northeastern Greek town of Komotini.

Greece said yesterday it was ordering out Consul-General to Kemal Gur from Komotini, where 19 people were injured in clashes between Christians and Muslims on Monday.

"If the Greek side communicates to officially its decision to order out our diplomat, then the Greek Consul-General in Istanbul will be declared persona non grata," the Foreign Ministry official said.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency earlier quoted Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz as saying Kitis would have to leave Turkey today.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said in Athens

Pardon for 7 Basque men

MADRID, Feb 3. (Reuter): The Spanish government pardoned seven jailed Basque separatists yesterday, resuming a long-interrupted policy of granting amnesty to extremists who give up armed struggle, state television said.

The six men and one woman, who were held in separate prisons across Spain, had forsaken violence, the television said. It gave no details of the crimes for which the former ETA guerrillas had been convicted nor their sentences.

Government officials could not be reached for comment.

ETA has strongly opposed the policy of individual pardons and in 1986 killed one of its former leaders, Maria Dolores Gonzalez Catarain, who had taken up the offer and returned home to the Basque country from exile in France.

Japan domestic issues in spotlight

TOKYO, Feb 3. (AP): A three-hour verbal scrimmage between conservative Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and opposition leaders yesterday made one thing clear — while trade problems are important, domestic issues are dominating Japan's political spotlight.

Kaifu and leaders of four major opposition parties spoke at length during the televised campaign debate on how Japan should handle relations with the United States and how to respond to democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.

All agreed on the importance of dealing effectively with trade tensions and continuing economic reforms aimed at making the economy less dependent on exports. They

disagreed on what concessions Japan should make. But they clashed most resoundingly on domestic issues.

Kaifu, 59, stressed that the United States was also making concessions to ease bilateral friction as he defended his Liberal Democratic administration's trade negotiations.

Leaders of the centrist Komeito (Clean Government Party) and Democratic Socialist Party also voiced a conciliatory stand.

"I think what the United States asks of Japan is quite appropriate," said Komeito chairman Koshiro Ishida, 59.

"We should base our relations on the assumption we are partners or friends with each other," said 72-year-old

Democratic Socialist leader Etsu Nagasue.

But Takako Doi, chairwoman of the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party, said Japan should steer a more independent course.

Ms Doi, 61, said US-Japan relations were "very important but difficult."

"Previously, our bilateral relations were given too much importance," she said. "Now they should be viewed in a global context."

Japan should fulfill its promises of economic restructuring but should make an exception for farm trade, Ms Doi said.

Communist Party chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa, also called

for more independence in foreign policy issues.

The 60-year-old communist leader said Japan should withdraw from multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade if the trade watchdog insists on opening Japan's rice market to imports.

The four opposition leaders finally clashed with Kaifu in the domestic arena, where an unpopular sales tax and a series of scandals, along with liberalisation of farm trade, cost the Liberal Democrats their upper house majority in an election last July.

A major influence-buying scandal forced Noboru Takeshita to resign as prime minister last spring and raised calls for political reforms to clean up money politics.

Sales tax to stay

Kaifu defends party policy

SAPPORO, Japan, Feb 3. (Reuter): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, fighting to save his party's 34-year hold on power in elections this month, defended a resented sales tax today as a vital pension fund for an ageing population.

Opposition Socialist leader Takako Doi opened her campaign by urging supporters to "move the mountain" and sweep Kaifu's weakened Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) out of government in the vote on Feb 18.

The LDP has governed Japan since 1955 and presided over the country's spectacular growth into the world's second biggest economy.

But the Recruit bribery scandal and the three per cent sales tax have cut its support.

It lost control of the upper house of parliament in a historic election defeat last year. And the fight is now

for the more powerful lower house, which controls the government.

"This is going to be a very severe election," Kaifu told more than 1,000 flag-waving supporters in the snowy streets of Sapporo, Japan's northernmost big city.

But he said leaders of the four opposition parties, who faced him in a long television debate yesterday, offered no alternative to the LDP.

"The opposition criticised the tax heavily," Kaifu said. "But I asked them time and time again to offer solutions, and they had nothing constructive to say."

He said the sales tax "is vital to support Japan's quickly ageing society ... I'm sure your pension fund is a big concern to you."

The prime minister, installed by party elders after scandals tainted major LDP figures last year, flew to Sapporo after winning his election campaign at a Tokyo railway station.

Doi, the forceful chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), launched her campaign three stations away on the same line, urging Japanese to repeat last year's opposition victory in the upper house election.

"We must force the LDP into a minority in the lower house as well: We must thoroughly change politics," Doi said. "We must move the mountain again."

A crowd of about 2,000 waved JSP-printed banners reading: "Abolish the sales tax."

Political analysts expect the LDP to cling to a slim majority in the 512-seat lower house, perhaps with the support of independents. It had 294 seats in the house just dissolved.

But its hold on power will almost certainly be weakened by the opposition majority in the upper house, which can block many laws.

Results of the election, in which 90 million people are eligible to vote, will be known early on February 19.

Kaifu, speaking from a van studded with loudspeakers at Tokyo's Shibuya railway station, told 5,000 supporters waving rising sun flags: "I know you can judge who will create a brighter future."

TOKYO, Feb 3. (Reuter): A controversial Buddhist sect leader who claims to have the power of levitation is hoping to use his popularity among young Japanese to win a seat in Parliament.

Hundreds of Shoko Asahara's followers have taken to the streets to campaign for the pudgy 32-year-old, who also says he can meditate for hours underwater without breathing.

"When I joined the Aum subtle truth, I finally found what I had been pursuing," one 24-year-old sect member said. "Here, you feel purified. Have you not noticed how people who join even start to look younger?"

The sect, launched by Asahara in 1986, claims about 4,000 members and says it helped 200 people reach enlightenment last year through training that includes yoga, meditation and psychic power.

Critics have accused the long-haired, long-bearded Asahara of luring thousands of young Japanese away from their families.

"When they are adults and have decided to join the religion, there is little we can do," said lawyer Hidehito Kageyama.

"But teenagers have also joined in ..."

An official of the sect denied press reports that its meditation course costs as much as one million yen (\$7,000) per person and that it requires members who cannot pay to work on its behalf.

"There is an incredible misunderstanding about the offerings," the official said. "We never ask people to give money. It's all voluntary."

The sect burst into prominence late last year after a lawyer who had fought against it suddenly disappeared, along with his family.

Despite efforts by the national police and lawyers around the country, no trace has been found of 33-year-old Tatsumi Sakamoto, his wife and their baby son since they vanished from their home in Yokohama, outside Tokyo, over two months ago.

Police said they found a badge of Asahara's sect on the floor of Sakamoto's empty house.

Sakamoto had been working since last May with parents whose children had joined the sect and cut off contact with their families, Kageyama said.

Asahara repeatedly appeared on television to deny the sect's involvement in the case and accused the press of irresponsible speculation.

The number of people seeking to contact their children in the sect jumped to over 80 from about 10 after the media began to report on the group's activities, said Takeshi Ono, a lawyer and friend of the missing Sakamoto.

Attack on Kim office

SEOUL, Feb 3. (AP): A police officer was injured and a police car gutted yesterday when radical students armed with firebombs attacked an office of former opposition leader Kim Young-Sam, police said.

Kim's party has agreed to merge with President Roh Tae-woo's government party, police said.

Police said an officer guarding the office in Kim's hometown of Pusan suffered burns in a firebomb attack early yesterday.

Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency, said about 50 students rushed out from alleys shouting slogans and hurling firebombs at Kim's office and a nearby police post.

Kim's office, its windows protected by wire mesh, suffered no damage, but the police post and a police car were set ablaze, Yonhap said. Police arrested two attackers, it said.

The students denounced the new party being formed by Roh's party and two moderate opposition groups as a "deceitful" alliance of conservatives.

Roh's Democratic Justice Party was dissolved Thursday at a national convention attended by about 6,000 delegates.

In a move unprecedented in South Korea's constitutional history, Roh announced last week that his party will merge with the nation's second and third opposition groups in a bid to end faction-ridden politics and achieve political stability.

Kim Young-Sam's Reunification Democratic Party announced its dissolution Monday. So far, at least five of KDP lawmakers and followers opposing the merger have vowed to form an independent opposition group.

Residents and radical students called the merger a scheme by a military clique to prolong its power.

On Thursday, about 30 dissident groups, including associations of radical students and hard-line labour unions, joined forces to launch a civil drive against the merger.

Last rebel base falls

Burma onslaught

RANGOON, Feb 3. (AP): Burmese troops yesterday seized one of the few remaining bases of the Karen rebels and also captured a base controlled by Kachin insurgents, a government spokesman said.

Troops captured the Karen base of Waley, defended by 600 guerrillas, after beginning a two-pronged attack eight days ago, said Col. Than Tun, spokesman for the military government.

Waley, near the Thai border some 175 miles (280 kms) east of Rangoon, was one of the few remaining bases on the frontier controlled by the Karen, an ethnic group that has fought for more than 40 years against central control.

Nine rebel bodies were counted, while the only casualty on the government side was one soldier wounded, Than Tun claimed.

Thai border patrol police confirmed that Waley had fallen, but said the only casualties were two Thai villagers who were seriously wounded in crossfire.

The Thai police said the rebels abandoned Waley at midday and retreated northwards after three hours of heavy mortar bombardment. The Thai sources said 1,000 Burmese troops had attacked the camp.

On Jan 31, government troops also captured a camp of Kachin rebels in an area called Monghaw in northeast Burma, Than Tun said. The camp was about 19 miles (30 kms) from the Chinese border, he said.

EMBASSY OF INDIA ADEN (PDRY)

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

The Embassy of India, Aden (PDRY) wishes to pre-qualify contractors for the proposed construction of the Indian Chancery Complex at Aden, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The scope of work will include construction of the Chancery and the Residence of the Ambassador at Aden on two separate plots. The job includes civil, structural, water supply, sewerage, HVAC, electrical, landscape, fire fighting and allied works. The total built-up area is approximately 1,800 square metres and likely period of completion is 15 months.

The pre-qualification application forms may be obtained from:

Head of Chancery,
Embassy of India,
34, Shara Istiqlal,
Boushahri Building,
Post Box No. 1450,
Safat, 13015-Kuwait.

The completed pre-qualification document with all relevant enclosures should reach the

Under Secretary (Projects)
Ministry of External Affairs,
Room No. 618, Akbar Bhawan,
Chanakaya Puri,
New Delhi - 110 021
(India)

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Calls for halt to Kosovo unrest

Police accused of using 'state terrorism'

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Feb 3. (Reuter) Human rights and opposition groups in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province accused police today of using "state terrorism" in suppressing riots by ethnic Albanians that have left up to 29 dead.

Thousands of police and security forces in bullet-proof vests patrolled streets with automatic weapons today. Factories were on strike across the province but there were no immediate reports of new clashes or casualties.

The groups said in a statement most of the victims in the past 10 days of unrest were shot in the back of the head in "mass reprisals" and called for urgent measures to avoid a "bloody civil war."

"Ninety per cent of the cases where people were killed indicate that mass reprisals were used and that most of the victims were shot in the back of the head," it said.

The statement, sent to the federal government and the state presidency, offered no evidence to support the allegations.

"The uncontrolled individual actions of the police forces," it said, "can easily be recognised as classical forms of state terrorism."

Reporters in the region say up to 29 people have been killed in the riots by ethnic Albanians demanding more autonomy in the region that borders Albania and is ruled by the republic of Serbia. The official death toll is 20.

They are the worst clashes since 28 people were killed in riots last March after Serbia cut back the province's autonomy. The unrest is fuelled by centuries of feuding between the majority Muslim Albanians and Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Yugoslavia's communist authorities, embroiled in their worst crisis since World War Two, have threatened tough action to end the unrest. Tanks and troops have been roaming the area and a partial state of emergency is still in effect.

Serbian Prime Minister Slobodan Milošević was due to visit the province today and met political activists to try to end the unrest.

The Kosovo human rights and opposition groups urged the government to join them in talks on ending the violence.

"We expect concrete steps as soon as possible to enable dialogue to start between Yugoslav government representatives and representatives of the signatories of this declaration for democracy against violence," their statement said.



An ethnic Albanian showing the V-sign during the demonstration in Pristina Feb 2. (Reuter wirephoto)

It was signed by Kosovo's branch of the United Yugoslav Democratic Initiative, the Kosovo Human Rights Committee, the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo and the Kosovo Philosophical Society. All newly-founded groups have been allowed to operate under a gradual relaxation of controls over the past year.

Clashes raged across the province yesterday as police fired tear gas at thousands of ethnic Albanians hurling stones and chanting "democracy, democracy" and the Yugoslav Army said it was ready to use force to stop civil war.

"There will be no breaking up of Yugoslavia in any way, no violent takeover of power, nor will we permit civil war in the country ... the intentions (of the

Yugoslav police forces are

firing at the innocent population, killing and injuring a large number of people, including women and children. This has aroused profound indignation among the Albanian people," Foreign Minister Rato Matišić wrote to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

China delays Czech visit

BEIJING, Feb 3. (Reuter) China said today it had postponed the visit to Beijing of a Czechoslovakian minister in protest against the tour of Prague by Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

The official New China News Agency said Beijing had no choice but to delay the visit by Ladislav Vodrážka, minister for metallurgy, engineering and electrical engineering, because the invitation to the Dalai Lama was a "gross interference" in China's internal affairs.

Czechoslovakian Ambassador in Beijing Eduard Šulc was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today, the agency said.

The Dalai Lama is in Prague as a guest of Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel.

Vodrážka was scheduled to begin his stay in China on February 17. No new date was set.

"The Czechoslovakian president's insistence on inviting the Dalai Lama to Czechoslovakia in disregard of the solemn position made clear to him in advance by the Chinese side constitutes a gross interference in China's internal affairs," the agency said.

It added that the visit had harmed the traditional friendship between the two peoples and the friendly relations between the two countries.

Officials at the Czechoslovakian embassy in Beijing confirmed that the ambassador had been called in to receive the protest and word that the minister's trip would be delayed. They declined further comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet withdrawal deal: The Soviet Union and Hungary agreed on Friday to quickly draw up a bilateral accord on a full withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian territory.

The announcement followed two days of talks between a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Aboimov and Hungarian officials led by Ferenc Somogyi, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry.

"The sides ... agreed that the withdrawal of Soviet troops will be carried out on the basis of an inter-governmental agreement to be concluded within the shortest possible time," a joint statement said. (Reuter)

Rebel stronghold Mavinga falls: Angolan government forces have captured the strategic Mavinga airstrip, the strategic Mavinga airstrip in southeast Angola after fierce fighting with Unita rebels, a high-ranking military source claimed Friday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mavinga fell Thursday at 0330 GMT after heavy air force bombardment and fighting that claimed "thousands of casualties" on both sides. (AP)

Crime on the rise in Brunei: A sharp rise in killings and suicide is warning authorities in the tranquil, oil-rich sultanate of Brunei, police said on Friday.

The number of cases of murder rose to five last year compared to only one in 1988 and of suicide to six from four, Haji Abdul Rahman Hamid, head of the police crime division, told reporters.

The 230,000 people of Brunei, located on the northern coast of Borneo Island, enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, pay no taxes and have free education and medical care. (Reuters)

70 die in oil ship collision: A Chinese news agency said Saturday 70 people were killed last week when an oil tanker collided with a ferry on the Yangtze River and another 43 people were missing.

The China news service said the accident occurred on the morning of Jan 24, in southeast Anhui province along the Yangtze River when an oil tanker carrying 2,300 tonnes of oil ran into a ferry, sinking it.

Rescue workers recovered 38 survivors and 14 bodies soon after the accident and another 56 bodies were found when the ferry was salvaged five days later, bringing the total number of deaths to 70. (UPI)

Moon receives gold crown: The Rev. Moon Sun-Myung, head of the Unification Church, has received a gold crown studded with diamonds and a ruby for his 70th birthday.

The crown was presented on Thursday at a daylong party at Olympic Park in Seoul. (AP)

NAM meet on world changes proposed

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 3. (Reuter) Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, has proposed a special ministerial meeting in New York in April to consider the dramatic changes on the world scene since the group's summit in Belgrade last September.

In a letter to all members, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar suggested the meeting take place before or at the start of previously scheduled special session of the UN General Assembly on economic issues and development, set for April 23 to 27.

His January 29 letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said the "processes of dynamic changes in the world, affirm decisions taken at last year's non-aligned summit."

But, he added: "These developments carry uncertainties and contradictions as well, and evolve at a pace that was hard to predict. This makes it inextricable to update our assessments and action."

Loncar proposed using the opportunity afforded by the special UN session to hold the non-aligned gathering in New York toward the end of April.

Karabakh foes hold fire



Soviet soldiers rest during a patrol in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. (Reuter wirephoto)

MOSCOW, Feb 3. (Reuter) Delegates from the warring Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed today to cease hostilities along their joint border and declared the escalation of their ethnic conflict was against both sides' interests.

Leaders of the two southern republics' mass movements also agreed on provisions for an exchange of hostages taken during the latest violence over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory that has claimed more than 320 lives in the past two years.

A spokesman for the Latvian Popular Front, host for the meeting in the Latvian capital Riga, said the two sides had issued a joint statement after the conclusion of their first round of direct talks in the early hours today.

"It stated that they agreed that the escalation of the conflict was against the interests of both sides," he said.

The spokesman said the Armenians and Azerbaijanis had also agreed on provisions for the exchange of hostages and a cessation of hostilities along their

entire border, where thousands of Soviet troops have been deployed to keep the peace.

But both sides had restated their positions over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region which has been part of Soviet Azerbaijan since 1923 but is populated mainly by Armenians.

According to the Moscow

radio publication *Interfax*, the two delegations had stressed that their conflict arose from territorial claims rather than religious differences.

The talks between leaders of the Azerbaijani Popular Front and the Armenian National Movement are being held under the auspices of the Baltic Council

composed of the powerful popular front mass movements of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

At earlier separate talks with members of the Baltic Council, the Azerbaijani Popular Front and the Armenian National Movement are being held under the auspices of the Baltic Council

Lukanov elected Prime Minister

SOFIA, Feb 3. (Agencies) Bulgaria's ruling communists have put new, moderate leaders in charge of the party and the government to freshen their image before free elections in less than four months.

Andrei Lukanov, 51, a prominent reformer, was elected prime minister unanimously by Parliament today, a day after his close ally, Alexander Lilov, became Communist Party leader.

Lilov was chosen at an emergency congress that ditched some remaining hardliners and prevented radical reformists breaking away on their own.

Lukanov took over from Georgi Atanasov, who resigned with his government on Thursday accused by the party of failing to rescue the economy from its worst crisis since World War Two.

"The social and economic crisis in the country dominates society, and our most important task is to find a way out of this," Lukanov told the National Assembly after his election.

He repeated the party's determination to bring the burgeoning opposition movement into the cabinet, an offer also made by Atanasov which the opposition has so far rejected.

Lukanov said he would announce his government team when Parliament met again next Thursday and the new cabinet would produce an economic programme by the end of February.

Bulgaria, the smallest Warsaw Pact country, has run up \$2.6 billion foreign debt, the third largest in the world, with food shortages, industrial production fell by 13 percent last December.

"In February we have to create an anti-crisis programme to ensure the correct distribution of everything in our society," Lukanov said after Parliament.

His election capped a week of major political shuffles which consolidated the position of the group of moderates around President Petar Mladenov, who ousted hardline party leader and head of state Todor Zhivkov in November.

Lukanov and Lilov are close allies of Mladenov, Lilov's immediate predecessor as party chief.

At the congress, which ended yesterday, Mladenov had the party leadership streamlined, creating a new 153-member supreme council to replace the party's old policy-making central committee which was twice the size.

The supreme council's 17-member presidium, replacing the old Politburo, is chaired by Lilov. Both Mladenov and Lukano are present members.

Lukanov, multilingual and Soviet-educated, is well-known abroad, having represented Bulgaria at the United Nations in Geneva and in the Soviet trading bloc, Comecon.

At home, he is considered less formal than many of his government colleagues, and sometimes gives impromptu interviews in the corridors during parliament sessions.

■ Ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov is undergoing medical treatment for "old age ailments" but is still alive, despite news reports to the contrary.

In his interview, Shevardnadze indicated Moscow had certain reservations about the Modrow plan and would like more clarification.

Kohl no to unity poll

Honecker quizzed

'Life in danger'

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 3. (Agencies) West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected today a Soviet proposal for an international referendum on German unity, saying the issue was for the Germans to decide themselves.

He told journalists Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal to allow all European states plus the United States and Canada to vote on unity went against the right of self-determination laid down in the United Nations charter.

"We don't need a midwife," he said when asked about the idea. "Self-determination is a basic right, it is in the charter of the United Nations."

Shevardnadze made the proposal on Friday, one day after East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow overthrew 40 years of communist policy and said East Berlin agreed the two German states should merge.

Kohl met Modrow in this Swiss ski resort today. He declined to spell out the subject of their talks but told journalists both states must act very quickly to stem the tide of a mass exodus of disillusioned East Germans to the West. The Chancellor said there was no point in holding an international referendum on German unity because its result was known in advance.

"It would bring a gigantic majority for German unity," he said.

Kohl also told Modrow that Bonn rejects any idea of a reunited Germany based on neutrality.

It was the first meeting between the two government leaders since Modrow's proposal on Thursday that each Germany gradually withdraw from respective military alliances and form a single neutral state.

Kohl and Modrow met on the sidelines of the 20th World Economic Forum Foundation symposium organised each year to promote contacts between world political, economic and business decision-makers.

West German officials said Kohl at the hour-long meeting at the Belvedere Hotel repeated the gist of remarks made in the morning.

Other Soviet sources said it appeared to conform to what they had learned of the ideas the Kremlin chief was to put forward.

Interfax, which has been in existence since last summer, said the plan also proposed radical changes in the leadership structure, including the establishment of a party chairman with two deputies and a slimmed down 200-member Central Committee.

Since the last party congress in 1986, the committee has fallen to under 250 members from nearly 400 through deaths and retirements, including a massive purge of conservatives last spring.

The proposal also called for creating a new body, the political executive committee, which would include representatives from all Soviet republics. It was not clear if this would replace the existing Politburo.

The Politburo, which now numbers 12 full and seven candidate or non-voting members, has for decades been the Soviet Union's effective inner cabinet, handing down its decisions to government and state bodies for implementation.

They told the official Ropress news agency they would make house-to-house visits to establish from relatives just how many people were dead, injured or missing in the western city, 570 km (350 miles) from Bucharest near the Yugoslav border.

The unrest which precipitated Ceausescu's overthrow began in Timisoara in mid-December. First reports said thousands died in fighting against his hated Securitate secret police.

Later inquiries scaled down the death toll, and a week ago the local police chief said only 66 were known to have died and 40 more believed to have been taken to Bucharest and killed.

■ Switzerland has said it will

allow the 1,300 symposium participants.

Kohl told the conference that West Germany welcomes East Berlin's acceptance of reunification as an objective and is

"prepared to begin talks immediately following the March 18 elections" in East Germany.

"I have no doubt as to the result of those elections," he said in expressing confidence that the communists will be defeated.

Kohl ruled out any idea of a neutral single German state emerging from any agreement between Bonn and "a freely-elected East German government."

"We do not want Germany going it alone or moving in nationalistic directions," he said.

"That is why I strictly reject any concept of German neutrality," Kohl said, warning that such proposals would lead to German "isolation."

"The federal republic of Germany," Kohl declared, "stands inviolably on the side of the Atlantic alliance and the community of free democracies

whose values we share and who guaranteed our security."

The cornerstone of this alliance is our friendship with the United States."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday that for German unity to be acceptable there must be firm guarantees no threat of war could ever arise from a new German state.

Shevardnadze, speaking in an interview with Soviet journalists reported by the official Tass news agency, said Germans should renounce all territorial claims on other countries and recognise current frontiers in Europe.

Call for Iran's expulsion from UN

STRASBOURG, France, Feb 3, (Reuters): West European parliamentarians called yesterday for Iran to be expelled from the United Nations, saying a government that had executed 90,000 people was not worthy of holding a seat.

Some 114 of the 177 members of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly in Strasbourg signed a declaration which said Iran was using terrorism as a form of foreign policy and that thousands of Iranians faced imminent execution.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Indian support

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuwa): Indian Foreign Ministry undersecretary Monashankar Dabir has said his country adheres to its stance in support of Arab issues, and has always backed the Palestinian question.

Speaking to a Kuwait daily newspaper here today, Dabir said that his country is worried about the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

China, Israel ties

TOKYO, Feb 3, (Kuwa): Israel will open a liaison office in Beijing, China, next month, according to Hong Kong press reports Saturday.

"China Morning Post" paper published in Hong Kong and received here Saturday said that this office is expected to have a consulate status until complete diplomatic relations with China were established.

Call to lift ban

CAIRO, Feb 3, (UPI): A leading Egyptian journalist and confidant of President Hosni Mubarak suggested yesterday the government allow the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to form a political party.

Mohamed Mohammed Ahmed, editor-in-chief of the influential Cairo weekly Al-Maswar, said bringing the Brotherhood into the mainstream of Egyptian politics might help it to drop its fiery rhetoric and espouse more responsible and realistic policies.

12 die in clashes

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, Feb 3, (AP): Nine Kurdish rebels and three government soldiers were killed in a clash in the eastern province of Tunceli, the regional governor's office announced yesterday.

The announcement, carried by the semi-official Anatolia news agency, said that the clash started near Kilkoy village in Nazimiyeh township Thursday night.

Lawsuit dismissed

WASHINGTON, Feb 3, (AP): A federal judge yesterday dismissed a lawsuit by the former Lebanese ambassador to Washington, who has been trying to avoid being evicted from his country's embassy.

US district court judge Harold Greene ruled that former ambassador Abdallah Bouhabib was given adequate notice that the United States was recognizing the new Lebanese government of President Elias Hrawi. Greene denied the request for a preliminary injunction by a Lebanese faction to which Bouhabib remains loyal.

2 commandos killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 3, (Reuters): Israel said its troops killed two commandos today during a clash in its south Lebanon security zone.

In Baghdad the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) said one of its units killed or wounded several Israelis in the encounter.

An Israeli Army spokeswoman who reported the clash said no Israeli were hurt.

Mideast talks

CAIRO, Feb 3, (Reuters): Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States may meet within a week to prepare for the first Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials said today.

"There is a possibility of a tripartite meeting in a European capital within a week," one told Reuters.

UN visit

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 3, (Reuters): UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will visit Namibia next month for the territory's independence celebrations and may go to the western Sahara on the same trip.

He said he would be in Namibia by March 20, a day before ceremonies are scheduled for the territory's independence from South Africa, and hoped he could visit the western Sahara shortly afterwards if time allowed.

ACC meet

CAIRO, Feb 3, (Kuwa): The Foreign Ministers of the Arab Co-operation Council states (ACC) will meet in Bagdad on February 16 to celebrate the first anniversary of establishing the council, radio Cairo said today.

During their meeting, the ACC foreign ministers will prepare for the next ACC summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Amman at the end of February, the radio added.

Cyprus talks

ANKARA, Feb 3, (AP): Rauf Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic, said yesterday he will attend a UN sponsored meeting with Greek Cypriot President George Vassilou on Feb 26 in New York.

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A man tries to set out fire in West Beirut after shells fired from East Beirut, crashed in the Muslim sector of the capital. (Below) Smoke billows from the port area in East Beirut where Christian rivals battle. (Reuters wirephoto)



Civilians trapped in Beirut inferno

Screaming for life

BEIRUT, Feb 3, (Agencies): Trapped men, women and children screamed for their lives in a blazing enclave.

The Christian "Voice of Lebanon" radio station broadcast a special appeal begging civil defence workers to brave artillery barrages to save them.

In the chaos of the Christian enclave's three-day old battle between army troops and their militia rivals it was impossible to learn whether firemen reached the building or what happened to the people inside.

At mid-evening yesterday radio stations reported a major fire burning at the St Peter and Paul hospital in Jdeideh, which had been crammed with wounded and had turned others away because it was out of oxygen and other essential supplies.

As night fell the flames of dozens of fires could be seen across the Christian enclave.

Shells exploded in flashes of orange. Bombardments rose to a hysterical pitch. A huge grey cloud of smoke covered the heart of the city.

"It is complete madness—as if the doors of hell were flung open," a resident said.

Hardly an area was left unscathed by the fighting, which pitted General Michel Aoun's 15,000 regulars against Sami Geagea's 10,000-man Lebanese Forces militia.

"There was a car with four bodies

in it on the road," he said.

Crew members on the ferry Barossa said 200 burned cars littered the parking lot at the port, evidence of the struggle for control of the tiny naval facility that the Lebanese Forces holds.

"Please tell them to stop only for one hour so we could feed out children."

"Stop this massacre," pleaded one radio station, "halt this collective massacre," said another.

Passengers arriving today on the ferry from Christian East Beirut said fighting between Christian factions was breaking more damage than any other battle in 15 years of civil war.

"We never had a war like this," said Robin Haik, 24, who took advantage of a hull in the fighting to escape the brutal exchanges in the Ashrafieh district.

"The Lebanese Forces put all kinds of artillery between every house to try to get the army, and the army tried to hit them with all kinds of shells."

Haik said hundreds of shells fell near his apartment building.

Traffic on the coastal highway from Ashrafieh to the port at Jounieh north of Beirut was reduced because of sniper fire and checkpoints set up by the opposing forces, Haik said.

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in it on the road," he said.

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E. Germany welcomes foreign investments

Envoy reiterates support for Arab causes

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): The East German ambassador to Kuwait today welcomed foreign investments to his country, particularly from the Arab Gulf states and expressed democratic Germany's wish to establish co-operation relations with the Gulf countries.

Dr Kurt Merkel said in press statements published today that his country, which only has diplomatic relations with Kuwait from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) group, is desirous to tap its present wealth and resources in partnership with capital from the GCC states.

The East German ambassador renewed his country's support of the Palestinian cause, stressing that any peace settlement

The envoy also praised, in a wide-ranging interview with a local daily, Kuwaiti-East German relations and appreciated Kuwait's constructive role at the Arab and international levels.

He said that his government now faces some internal difficulties but hoped that following the upcoming March 18 general elections, efforts would be directed towards strengthening relations with the tripartite committee on Lebanon.

Asked on reunification of the two Germanys, Dr Merkel indicated that it would not be on the example of the pre-World War II model but rather within an all-European unity, where no divisions exist

between East and West Europe.

Elaborating the East German envoy said the Bonn and Berlin governments were now discussing development of co-operation ties to maximum levels as a step towards a federal system.

In reply to a question, the ambassador said East Germany does not intend to apply for membership of the European Economic Community, adding Berlin is a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) and would like to stay, since 60 per cent of trade is with Comecon states.

Faisal award for US chemist

HOUSTON, Feb 3, (UPI): A Texas A-and-M University chemist has won the 1990 King Faisal International Prize in science for a lifetime of research that led to the development of high-octane gasoline, antifreeze, structural plastics and other technological mainstays of modern life.

"It hit me out of the blue," F. Albert Cotton, 59, told the Houston Post in an interview. The newspaper contacted Cotton by telephone at Cambridge University in England, where he is working temporarily.

Cotton said he learned of the honour last week from a reporter for a Saudi Arabian newspaper.

Cotton also has been named this year's recipient of the National Academy of Sciences Award in chemical sciences. He is the only scientist ever to receive all six American chemical society gold medals and recently was awarded a second Guggenheim Fellowship.

The King Faisal prize is awarded for "accomplishments benefiting mankind."

Sharing

Cotton, an inorganic chemist, will share the US\$93,000 prize with two other scientists—Moustafa F. Amr El Sayed of UCLA, a physical chemist, and Raymond U. Lemieux of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, an organic chemist.

In the mid-1960s, Cotton discovered the concept of a quadruple bonding among atoms of metallic elements.

"It was the discovery and description of the chemistry of a completely new class of chemical compounds," he said.

Bangladesh blanket drive extended to February 12

BANGLADESH: Association has extended time up to 12th February 1990 for collecting blankets for cold wave victims of Bangladesh. Interested persons may donate their blankets to the Bangladeshi Embassy premises, Khaliqiyah.

First shipment of 208 blankets has been handed over to the Bangladeshi Air Lines which will carry it without any cost.

The association's officials express their thanks and gratitude to all persons and establishments for their kind donation and help.



Student exchange programme

Deputy General Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Engineer Mahmoud Al Mudhaif received two Swedish experts and exchanged talks with them on the possibility of setting up a student exchange programme.

The two Swedish experts were invited by the authority's Industrial Training Centre to visit Kuwait in order to tour the centres and colleges and also to provide advice on organising technical training programmes to upgrade the level of work.

During their visit the two experts visited the Industrial Training Centre, The Communications and Aviation Centre in addition to the Electricity and Water Centre and the Health Sciences College.

The Swedish experts stated their establishment in Sweden is keen to train Kuwaitis on operating advanced technological devices.

GCC common market

Unified customs tariff will fulfill aspirations

GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs Dr Abdullah Al Quwaiz has said that there is great hope that the programme endorsed by the GCC's Higher Council at the Muscat Summit last December will lead to the establishment of the Gulf Common Market.

He said that the steps taken in the economic field since 1983 have been able to consolidate the unification and integration of the GCC national markets adding that the volume of trading activities in the GCC which used to vary from 2 or 3 per cent to 10 per cent as registered during the years 1985/86 and 1987 has increased to 20 per cent.

He told a local daily that although the drop in intra-GCC trading activity rate was due to the drop in oil prices caused by high demand, the trading volume in the region did not drop as the markets started implementing an inter-dependent policy, while investment rates increased considerably.

He said that the interlinkage sought between the GCC was no longer impossible to reach and once the customs tariff is unified, it could be said that the sought after GCC Common Market would come into existence.

Quwaiz pointed out that the GCC finance ministers would during their forthcoming meeting on Feb 14 discuss steps towards more achievements within the framework of the GCC Joint Economic Pact to fulfill the aspirations for economic integration in the region.

He added that the expansion of the market and the increase in budgets of many countries in the region in addition to the unification of standards, improvement of the economic situation, half of the

Iraq-Iran dispute, oil demand increase and production were factors contributing to the improvement of the economic situation and attracting investments.

He said that the GCC has great opportunity for investment in the region, besides the guarantees required for citizen investors to operate at home, adding that an agreement was signed June 1988 between the GCC and EEC identifying the field of co-operation between the two blocs and determining obstacles that need to be eliminated by joint efforts.

He said that a meeting would be held between the two parties in Muscat on March 17, which would be attended by the foreign ministers from both blocs, where discussion would centre on the inauguration of co-operation on channels between the two blocs, and a number of committees and work teams would be formed to accelerate the co-operation tempo between both sides in certain areas.

A meeting for Gulf and European industrialists would be held in Grenada on Feb 19 for the exchange of views and discussion of the topical industrial issues pertaining to co-operation between the two sides, where 300 European industrialists would participate and 100 from the Gulf, mostly from the private sector, Quwaiz said.

He said that the meeting would centre on oil and petrochemical industries as well as major heavy and energy industry, such as steel and aluminium in addition to pharmaceutical industries.

In a related development a special symposium is to be held on Feb 27 and Feb 28, 1990 in Casablanca which will discuss the possibilities of exporting Arab countries contracts.



Houti tours markets

Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti announced yesterday that the Amir Souk (market) in Kuwait City will be opened at the beginning of next month during the National Day celebrations. After touring the market yesterday, Houti said that the contractor promised to complete all construction work in one month's time.

The market consists of 84 shops, a diwania, two public cafes and a

post office. Houti said that the nature of the old market will be maintained as people with professions will be allotted the shops. The minister also said that the ministry has received offers for the construction of the Gharabali and vegetables, fruits, and fish markets in Kuwait City. He said that the allocations made for the construction are KD4.5 million.

BOARD chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaj Al Ibrahim inspected progress of work at the camel and sheep breeding project in Al Quraia area. Sheikh Ibrahim also inspected some farms in Waqra agricultural area.

Call to impose death penalty on drug traders

249 kilos confiscated in '89

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti official today called for imposing capital punishment or life imprisonment on drug traffickers as complained of the increase of the number in such cases "day after day."

Director of Drugs and Narcotics Department (DDND) at the Ministry of Interior Salah Al Musaad told a local daily in an interview that about 249 kilogrammes of hashish, opium and heroin in addition to eight million hallucinatory pills were confiscated last year.

Musaad said penalties should be reinforced to stop dealers from spreading their poisons in the country.

Musaad said that drug trafficking is an international problem, and statistics reveal that a quarter of the total world population are drug addicts. International conferences and symposia are increasingly being held amidst growing awareness of the dangerous effects of this problem. The last of these symposia was held in Vienna on November 25 till December 20, 1989 which resulted in the endorsement of the proposed agreement.

He said that because drug smuggling formed a formidable part of the problem strict legislations were formulated to deter this illegal and the death penalty is the ultimate. He added that using drugs on the other hand led to addiction and rendered the users unproductive social misfits who remained a source of continuous nuisance, mainly to their family and then to society.

He claimed last October's British government ban preventing cow brains and spinal cords, the most likely infected material, from entering the food chain did not go far enough.

She pointed out that the offal from calves under six months old was excluded from the ban and is still entering the food chain. The mad cow disease is an incurable condition which affects the animal's brain.

A report on Jan 27 had stated that the first cases of "mad cow" disease diagnosed outside Britain, the Channel Islands and the Irish Republic were reported in the Sultanate of Oman.

A letter in a specialised publication in London, the Veterinary Record said the disease, bovine spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the GCC country in two Jersey cows imported from England in 1985.

The Times which highlighted the report said the discovery is likely to reinforce concern about live animals exported from the UK.

Earlier on the EEC decided to ban the import of live cattle aged more than six months.

No case of BSE has been diagnosed in animals younger than these, the paper noted.

Support for Palestinian aid fund requested

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): Chairman of the Charity Committee in Support of Palestine and Lebanon Ahmad Al Falah today called for supporting the committee to collect Kuwaiti dinar one million (about \$3 million) in donations for assistance of Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna, Falah said the fund-raising targets the establishment of productive and professional projects to engage unemployed Palestinian labourers.

It will be of great help to those affected by the Israeli repressive measures of confiscation of lands and territories and families whose supporters are wounded or have died or arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Falah said that the committee has received donations to support the steadfastness of our brothers in the occupied territories," adding that \$2 million were sent to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in support of the intifada and \$3 million were used in supporting charity projects in occupied Palestine.

A meat importer Shabib Faraj said that prices of meat had been reduced in view of the increasing supply of meat in the local market from various sources. He said that the market is suffering a slump and huge losses might be incurred in the very near future.

Yusuf Ahmed, a customer said that some butchers were selling Chinese meat and claiming that it was Arabic or Turkish and said that many butchers do not seriously consider being apprehended for selling above the fixed price. He said that recently he had purchased calf meat at KD1.500 per kilo, although the official price was defined at 800 fils.

The KAC official said the two-day conference is due to be held here tomorrow.

Alawi in Baghdad

MUSCAT, Feb 3, (Kuna): Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi today left here for Baghdad on an official three-day visit to Iraq, during which he will hold talks with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Radi Muscat today quoted Bin Alawi as saying before departure that his visit to Iraq comes as part of consultations Oman conducts with fraternal Arab countries. Oman currently chairs the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab League.

He pointed out that his visit comes at an appropriate time for consultations on the current situation in the region and efforts exerted to establish peace and co-operation.

Aviation conference today

KUWAIT, Feb 3, (Kuna): All preparations for the holding of the second Arab Conference on Aviation Culture have been completed, assistant director of the public relations department at the Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Ibtisam Al Abdul Razzak said.

The KAC official said the two-day conference is due to be held here tomorrow.

The chancery of the Embassy of Finland has moved. The new address is: Surra, Block No. 4, Street No. 1, House No. 8. Postal address is: P.O. Box 26699, 13127, Safat, Kuwait. Telephone No. 5312890, telefax 5324198 and telex 44948.

SAUDI ARABIA

Official information channels impede research: experts

System for every Arab nation proposed

A NUMBER of information specialists and experts who participated in a seminar in Kuwait recently, stressed on the importance of official information to undertake scientific research and studies.

Nabil Hamza, a researcher at the information centre of Arab League in Tunis, said that the Arab world has appreciated the importance of official information, but, lacks bases of compilation and retrieval of such information.

Hamza said that Arab countries have demonstrated strong inclination to establish national policies for information and to establish information banks as well as documentation centres. She said: "Each Arab country should institute a national system for information including establishment of an Arab information network."

Access

She added that Arab researchers face several problems in conducting research due to the large number of libraries, scattering of sources for obtaining official information, documents and publications.

Also speaking on the issue, Iqbal Al Ethaimeen, information specialist at the National Information Centre of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (Kisr) said that the centre can easily access information from USA and Europe through its connections with information banks in these countries. Paradoxically, she said that they face problems in getting information from Kuwait itself.

She added that ministries and

establishments in Kuwait are not obliged to deposit information in the centre. This leads to confusion in undertaking research and is a prime cause for overlapping of such research.

Survey

The centre undertook a field survey of ministries and establishments and reported defects in producing and storing of information and the seminar that was held at Kisr was an effort to address these problems and suggest recommendations.

She said that getting non-official information is far easier than obtaining it through official channels. She added that some officials justify their rejection to provide official information by claiming that such information is secret. "Information provided by the state should be authentic," Ethaimeen said and added that "ministries have now come to realize the importance of establishing information centres."

Also speaking on the subject, Dr. Rashed Al Alwashi, director of Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health said there has been a marked increase in concern from the beginning of 1980 to establish information centres. While there is sufficient information on birth and deaths, some problems are experienced in obtaining medical and health information and attributed this to be the reason many researchers fail in their attempts.

Saudis ban Thai workers

(Continued from Page 1)
prayers in a public square in the city of Damman.

The Saudi anger against Bangkok has been heightened by the fact that another embassy employee, Third Secretary Abdullah Al Maliki was assassinated a year earlier in the Thai capital and the Thai police have not come up with any clues to the murders.

The Saudi newspaper Asharq Al Awsat said in a report today that the same pistols that killed Maliki were used in this week's murders. Quoting unidentified Thai police sources, the paper said that while witnesses claimed seeing an Arab-looking person shooting, the criminal may not necessarily be Arab.

Because the murdered Saudis were connected with visa processing, Thai police investigators this time as in the case of Maliki believed that the assassination was carried out by local job placement agents frustrated over problems gaining entry visas for the kingdom.

Police are investigating a possible connection between the murder of the three and the killing of another Saudi diplomat a year ago, the interior minister said.

Police began a widespread search for two gunmen who yesterday shot dead the three diplomats.

Two gunmen were responsible for the shootings and there were witnesses to both of them, although no arrests have been made. Lt Col Wiboon Boontham said.

Interior Minister Bahman Siparia said on state-owned Radio Thailand that police were probing a link between the killings and that of Al Maliki a year ago.

Al Maliki was responsible for processing visa applications from thousands of Saudis who travel to work in Saudi Arabia each year.

His murder has not been solved, but police investigators said at the time that some job placement agents were unhappy about Al Maliki's strict application of regulations when processing visas for that work.

Extra police were sent to Bangkok's Don Muang airport yesterday to prevent any attempt by the killers to leave Thailand by air, security officials said.

They said the motive for the murders was not known, but he did not think they were politically inspired.

Those, estimated at 140,000, make up one of the large foreign communities that are part of the three-million-strong expatriate labour force in the kingdom. Thailand also enjoys good commercial and tourism ties with Saudi Arabia.

The deputy interior minister's statement would be a blow to the Thai labour market and the hard currency earnings of the Asian country.

Despite the reports of a labour visa vendetta, neither the Thai police sources quoted in the Saudi papers nor the Saudi statements of condemnation have ruled out international terrorism.

Yacht search

AL SEYASSAH has reported that a number of citizens in Faialka island have started a campaign to search for the yacht "Al Siddiq" that disappeared on 21/1/1990 carrying three Jordanian nationals (two brothers and their brother in law), People of Faialka searched the sea area between Faialka island and Arayaq area.

The father of two brothers believed that his sons and their brother in law lost their way and went to a neighbouring state. He appealed to officials in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran to respond to his calls and notify him about their fate.

Al Seyassah learnt that the Iranian embassy in Kuwait sent a cable to relevant authorities in Iran inquiring about the yacht and the three youths.

The embassy is still waiting for the reply.

Accidents

ONE man died and thirteen others were injured in the course of eight traffic accidents which occurred yesterday in the country according to the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Department.

It added that one accident occurred at the Capital Governorate, one at Hawalli and six in Ahmad.

OBITUARY

Abbas Ayub Shaikh
Died on 2-7-90
Body will be flown to
Bombay today

Inserted by
Yusuf Shaikh & Brothers
(Defence)



Administrative course for police officers

Under the auspices of the undersecretary of the ministry of interior Major General Yusuf Bader Al Khorafi, the third administrative and financial training course was concluded yesterday at the premises of Police Officers Training Institute.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the assistant undersecretary for police affairs Major General Mohammed Al Qabandi, the assistant undersecretary at Kuwait Audit Bureau Salman Belal, the director general of police college Brigadier Khalid Al Muhayes and a number of senior officials at the ministry.

The course was attended by 23 officers with three from the ministry of Defence and three from Yemen Arab Republic, funded for six weeks.

The director of the police officers training institute Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Al Nigmahish made a speech at the ceremony in which he confirmed the importance of this training course for the upgrading of trainees in the police related activities.

In conclusion Major General Khorafi and Major General Qabandi distributed certificates to the graduates. Pictures show Major General Khorafi and a senior official at the ministry of interior with the graduates above and giving away the certificates (below).

Philippines Embassy corner

Things are looking up in RP economy

ON 25 January, Pres. Aquino marked her 57th birthday with a flying visit to Cebu City to launch initial projects funded by the Philippine Assistance Programme (PAP), the multi-billion dollar International Aid Plan by the US to help boost Philippine economic recovery. The Samar project consists of livelihood programmes designed by the Philippine Business for Social Progress and aligned with the P1 billion Samar Island Development Programme. The project involves sea-side culture, ice-making, boat-building, and other fishing facilities. Aquino was joined by Ambassadors of at least 5 PAP-Donor Countries: the US, Canada, France, Australia, and Japan, as well as members of her Cabinet.

Pres. Aquino approved the setting-up of a P2.5 billion "Abot-Kaya Pakaway Fund" to be constituted thru a yearly funding of P500-million from the national government to promote construction of more low-cost houses to be available for low-income families in 14 regions of the country. In signing Republic Act No. 5346, she said that setting up of the Fund will make housing more affordable thru internal amortization support. It will also generate low-cost housing thru development loans, and ensure continuity of housing loan programmes through the reduction of risks to lenders. Eligible borrowers will be granted housing loans with low amortization rates for the first five years.

EBC Commissioner Abel Marutes and DFA Secretary Manglapus signed the Financing Agreement for the Southern Mindanao Agricultural Programme (SMAP) representing the latest major EC development grant for the Philippines.

The majority of American companies established in the Philippines have not changed their plans for expansion and new investments despite the bloody abortive coup last month. Mark Blacker, head of the American Chamber of Commerce said. Blacker said that in a recent survey of 68 member-companies, 48 said they had expansion plans before the coup bid and that 43 said they were still pushing through with these plans. He said this would lead to about P8.6 billion (US\$389 m) in new investments which would go mostly into manufacturing and trade.

The country's electronic industry is today's fastest foreign exchange-earner and is now among the top non-traditional exports," Andrew Sevilla, President of the Electronic Association of the Philippines reported. He said that export earnings from semi-conductors alone reached US\$12.07 billion in 1988 against US\$7.2 billion in 1976. Last year, the industry posted an 11.1 per cent increase in foreign revenues, bringing aggregate earnings to US\$919 million from the previous year's US\$827.46 million. The industry's remarkable showing can be attributed to the influx of electronics manufacturers into the country's export-marketing programme.

Pres. Aquino reduced the tariffs on imported buses and parts, motor vehicle spare parts, and shipping vessel parts in efforts to ease the transport problem. The president also announced the reduction of tariffs on farm machinery and inputs to bring down the production cost and increase productivity; and the reduction of tariffs on step-voltage regulators and power transformers to improve power service and lower power costs. Aquino said she lowered the tariffs on 104 items primarily on transport, through National Emergency Memo Order No. 8. She said the tariff cuts, averaging 10 per cent will be effective until June this year. The president said the lowering of the tariffs will ease the transport crisis by helping mass transport operators put more vehicles on the road and at sea.

The Board of Investments (BOI) approved the P3.2 billion project of Toyota for the manufacture in the Philippines of motor-vehicle transmissions mainly for export to Japan. The transmission plant, which is expected to be operational by 1992, is classified as an ASEAN industrial project. As such, its production will be subject to lower duties when exported to other Toyota car assemblers in the ASEAN region. According to Henry Moran, President of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc., Toyota's P3.2 billion project is part of the P5 billion total investments committed by the participants to the country's Car-Development Programme for 1990. The Toyota transmission plant will be set up outside Metro-Manila and would take at least 18 months to construct. Moran added. The project will be majority-owned by Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan with the local Toyota subsidiary, Toyota Motor Philippines owning at least 10 per cent of the equity.

The Board of Investments (BOI) has pledged its full support to Norkis Trading Group (NTG) in achieving its goal to manufacture an all-Philippine motorcycle in the country by 1992. DTI Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, concurrent BOI Vice-Chairman, said that adequate incentives will be given to Cebu-based motorcycle parts and components' producers to accelerate the realization of a 100 per cent Filipino Motorcycle model by Norkis.

Ernesto Aboit, National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) President, said that the Philippines' energy supply is expected to stabilize with the completion of the ambitious nationwide energy interconnection by 1995. Aboit said that the Negros-Panay interconnection will be completed in March this year, while the Cebu-Negros interconnection is due for completion in 1992. He also said that they are now negotiating for a loan with the World Bank to finance the Leyte-Luzon grid interconnection.

Aurelio Periquet Jr. President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the visit next month of top-level Japanese businessmen is an indication of renewed investors' confidence in the Philippines. Periquet said the decision of the Japanese group, led by top officials of the different private sector business groups in Japan, will lead to increased economic co-operation between Japan and the Philippines. He urged the government to launch more investment-promotion missions abroad to counter the "Wait-and-See" attitude of these foreign businessmen.

Three more big projects costing P204 million have been approved by the Board of Investments (BOI): production of hard gelatin capsules, production of steel, and expansion of tourist-transport facilities. Filgel Industries Inc., classified under new pioneer status is putting up a P75 million venture to produce 560 million pieces of hard gelatin capsules per year. The firm will start its commercial operation in January 1991. The P6.55 million project to produce steel in Bulacan will be undertaken by Acuted Steel and Service Center Inc., which is 60 per cent owned by Filipel and 40 per cent by Japanese investors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reported that despite the major economic and political disturbances which hit the country last year, securities-trading shot up by a hefty 131.5 per cent from sales of only P39 billion in 1988 to P52.2 billion. In a memo to the Commission through Associate Commissioner Armando Z. Gonzales, SEC's Securities Investment Specialist Dante C. Arboit reported that the "upturn is traced to the renewed confidence of investors, both local and foreign, as indicated by the significant sales improvement in both the primary and secondary markets."

To fight poverty in the rural areas, the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany launched the "Integrated Development Project in Bondoc Peninsula." Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul Manglapus and West German Amb. Peter Scholz signed the Technical Assistance Agreement for the first project phase which is scheduled for 3-1/2 years with the German contribution (grant) amounting to P73 million. The Integrated Development Project aims at improving economic, social and ecological conditions of the poor rural population groups in the region. Main feature of the project is the participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the project management and implementation.

Roberto Villanueva, Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) said that the Philippines is to receive US\$25 million in grant funds from the US Agency for International Development as part of Washington's contribution to a Multilateral Aid Plan (MAP) for Manila. Villanueva signed with US President George Bush's special representative Elliot Richardson, an agreement for US\$20 million in grant money for use in high-priority projects. Mr Richardson also signed a Co-operation Agreement with a non-government organization (NGO), the Economic Development Foundation, to establish a US\$5 million joint private-sector pre-investment facility.

About 30 per cent of foreign investors in the stock market who backed out after the aborted coup last December, have started to come back in the last three weeks, indicating that the Philippine economy is gradually picking up. This was the assessment of both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP) in a dialogue at the Club Filinvest. Francisco Diaz, President of Ancor Capital and Investment Corporation said that these investors are mostly Hong Kong-based Fund Managers which handle funds from Asia, Europe and the United States.

The second training course for GCC drug prevention apparatuses started here yesterday and will last up to Feb 15, Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) reported.

The agency quoted an official source saying that the training course which organised in co-operation with the French Interior Ministry will be attended by 26 officers representing the six member states of Gulf Co-operation Council.

Cold wave damages crops in Abdalli area

TEMPERATURES at Abdalli agricultural areas registered below zero which led to serious damage to tomatoes, plants and other agricultural produce due to irrigation water flowing into pipes and channels freezing despite many precautionary measures, Khalifa Al Banwan, the farmers representative said.

Interviewed by a local daily, he indicated that agriculture under Kuwait weather conditions is not an easy task. It requires planning, management and providing various types of support and assistance in order for the sector to continue developing. He added that in addition to weather factors, agricultural blights like the white fly and viruses have caused problems which have led to crops being damaged.

Banwan advised farmers to use smooth nylon windows in combating blight adding that this method has proved instrumental in combating the white fly. He urged farmers to benefit from the experiments of the agricultural authority, particularly new experiments which are being conducted currently.

The new experiments conducted by the authority applied an adhesive type material on a yellow board which is hung inside plastic green houses. Such boards proved to be effective in attracting flies.

Banwan expressed hopes that the agricultural authority will exert efforts and more care in combating blights also to provide farmers with adequate quantities of chemicals and agricultural tools. He called upon the authority to co-ordinate efforts with neighbouring states like Saudi and Iraq to set up joint plans to combat blight particularly insects.

He stressed the co-ordination between states has increased in importance gradually particularly in the fields of blights particularly insects.

He pointed out that some of the countries may export agricultural produce in order to obtain hard currency. Turkey and other countries belong to this category.

He hoped that farmers here will receive more support from the government.

He indicated that the marketing of locally produced vegetables and fruits has been improved by local agricultural product companies but, they have as yet not recalled the ideal situation which all farmers look forward to.

Banwan stressed on the importance of imposing more taxes on imported products and proposed setting limits for qualities entering the country as a replacement resolution. He hoped that that officials at the Co-operatives Union for Agricultural products will enter the marketing field in order to assist farmers.

Banwan pointed out that Abdalli agricultural area requires a branch for one of the banks in order for farmers to conduct transfers of salaries to their relatives outside Kuwait.

He stated that the area requires a dentist, and an eye specialist due to the vast increase in the number of workers and citizens particularly during official holidays.

Banwan also called on all

technological methods.

He added that the ministry extends underground water pipes for new buildings in old housing areas to reduce dependence on tankers. However, the process is gradual and it will be quite sometime before tankers can be seen as obsolete. He disclosed that many owners of buildings do not apply to have water pipes connected to their buildings — although the network is near their buildings.

Commenting on the redness of drinking water in Kuwait, Minayes said that there are several factors which are causative agents — specially salts in water and temperature. The ministry has successfully overcome the problem at the Shuaibah station that supplies housing areas between the 1st Ring Road and the 3rd Ring Road, including Kuwait City.

Contracts

The ministry signed two contracts recently to treat the problem in water produced by Western Doha Station and Zour Station. The projects will be completed by 1992 and the discolouration problems will be eradicated within the coming two years, Minayes said.

Commenting on the import of drinking water from Iraq and the power link project between Iraq and Kuwait, he said that consultants and ministry's staff have completed studies on the feasibility of importing water for domestic and irrigation purposes.

The final report to import 200 million gallons of water from the Shar Al Arab for agricultural purposes is being discussed. Surveys and tests to extend water pipes for agriculture will also be conducted. The power network and the supply of water

will be discussed with the forthcoming Iraqi delegation to Kuwait.

The official went on to explain that there are four fields for brackish underground water in Sulaihiya, Shagaya, Umm Qadeer and Waifi with a total capacity of 100 million gallons a day which are used for irrigating gardens and plants along roads and house gardens.

He estimated underground water in Kuwait to be in the vicinity of 24 to 34 million cubic metres. The ministry is also carrying out several projects to increase daily production of brackish water to 210 million gallons a day by 1993 to meet the projected increase demand in brackish water, the official said.

He added that there are six water distilling stations in Kuwait that have a total production capacity of 254 million gallons a day. This covers the average of daily consumption of drinking water in Kuwait and the ministry is constantly striving to provide supplies of fresh water for citizens under any given circumstances.

The ministry built ground water reservoirs that have a total storage capacity of 1,885 million gallons and this capacity will be increased in the future to 2,620 million gallons. The ministry also began a project to change the present asbestos underground water pipes with ductile pipes according to the latest specifications and these projects are to be carried out in four stages and to be completed in Dec 1993, Minayes said.

Commenting on the Peace Water Project to import water from Turkey, he said that the project was in-depth and in the final analysis it was found to be very expensive.</

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HISTORY is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind — Edward Gibbon, English historian (1737-1794).

US forces in Asia, Pacific

Reductions to be measured

MANILA, (Reuters): The United States has begun reducing force levels in Asia and the Pacific, but the disengagement will be measured and more gradual than in Europe, diplomats and defence analysts say.

"I would expect from the United States that adjustments of our military presence in the area would take place very moderately and in very close consultation with our friends and allies in the region," said Stephen Bosworth, a former US ambassador to the Philippines and current president of the US-Japan Foundation.

"Whatever happens, one does not want to abruptly leave a vacuum in the region, because such a vacuum could be perceived by both foreign and domestic investors as a potential source of instability," Bosworth said during a visit to Manila this week.

Cuts

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will visit Japan, South Korea and the Philippines during a trip from February 11-23 to discuss with allies possible cuts in US forces in the region.

Diplomats said these could include the withdrawal of marines from Japan and some troops from South Korea and the eventual closure of the large Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

Talks on the future of Clark and the US naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines are scheduled to begin in March or April. Some members of the Philippine Senate are urging either a phase-out or immediate removal when the US lease expires in September, 1991.

Washington regards Clark and Subic, its two largest military bases outside US soil, as playing a crucial role in the defence of the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions. It wants the lease on them extended, if possible for at least 10 years.

Plan

"Anything less than 10 years makes it difficult to plan and appropriate funds for necessary improvements," said US Congressman Jim Kolbe, a member of the House appropriations military construction subcommittee who visited Clark and Subic last month.

The United States currently has about 50,000 troops and servicemen stationed in Japan, 45,000 in South Korea and 14,700 in the Philippines, according to US figures.

Cheney has announced that US Air Force operations at three South Korean-controlled bases will end by mid-1992 and more than 2,000 servicemen will be withdrawn from there as part of worldwide budgetary cuts in US defence spending.

Technical improvements will also mean a reduction in some personnel at Clark and a naval communications centre at San Miguel in the Philippines, according to US ambassador in Manila, Nicholas Platt.

Minor

But the cuts are minor compared to the radical troop reductions proposed by President George Bush in Europe. Cheney was quoted by Tokyo media as telling a senior Japanese defence agency official that the United States has no plans to cut forces in Japan, the Pentagon's regional command.

Before Cheney's Asian tour, the Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines, Oleg Solkov, urged the United States to respond to unilateral Soviet force reductions in Asia, including withdrawal of MiG 23 fighters and TU-16 long-range bombers from the Soviet base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

He said in a speech to Filipino businessmen that the Soviet Pacific fleet had been cut by 57 ships and submarines between 1984 and 1989 and called on the United States to agree to talks on reducing forces at sea.

Referring to the series of US military bases across the Pacific rim, Solkov said that "the rationale for keeping the huge network of military presence in the area set up at the height of the cold war, which is no longer there, is rapidly eroding."

Capability

US officials respond by saying the Soviet attack capability in the Pacific has not diminished and that US forces in the region are there to help allies and not just to defend US interests against the Soviet Union.

Kolbe, at a recent briefing for reporters in Manila, noted the build-up of Indian naval strength and said there was a continuing threat from countries like China and Vietnam as well as the Soviet Union.

Asian diplomats said Japan and several Southeast Asian countries would not welcome a radical reduction in US presence in the region.

Singapore has offered to host some US military facilities if they cannot remain in the Philippines.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Moriyama said on Wednesday that Tokyo might voluntarily increase spending on US troops stationed in Japan. Japan already pays half the cost for the 50,000 US troops there.

South Korean officials said cuts other than those already announced are bound to follow. (But) the US realises that what is happening in Europe cannot be carbon-copied in Asia," said a senior government official in Seoul.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1536 — France's King Francis I conquers Savoy and occupies Turin, also signs French alliance with Turkey's Sultan Suleiman I.

1585 — France's King Henry III refuses sovereignty of the Netherlands.

1783 — Hostilities end between United States and England.

1874 — British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti war.

1899 — Filipinos stage revolt against United States because independence is not granted.

1972 — Japan agrees to restore Shantung to China.

1938 — Germany's Adolf Hitler assumes office of war minister and names Joachim von Ribbentrop as foreign minister.

1948 — Ceylon becomes self-governing dominion in British Commonwealth.

1961 — Terrorist attacks break out in Portuguese African territory of Angola.

1969 — China's Charge d'Affaires in Netherlands, Liao Ho-Shu, arrives in United States and requests political asylum.

1972 — Britain and nine other nations recognise East Pakistan as independent nation of Bangladesh.

1973 — Jordan's King Hussein rules out hostilities with Israel and says he will seek US president Richard Nixon's help in easing crisis in Middle East.

1986 — Group of hard-line Arab leaders, meeting in Libya, threaten anti-American violence "within the United States and throughout the world."

1989 — UN Security Council is asked to extend UN Iran-Iraq military observer group through September 30.



Demonstrators hold up placards after the announcement unbanning the ANC. (Reuter wirephoto)

Reform dividends start to flow in De Klerk crosses the Rubicon

Gestures still fall short

Transafrica director Randall Robinson

Nevertheless, Robinson added, "we must keep sanctions in place and demonstrate a willingness to go even further if the De Klerk government refuses at any point to follow through on their commitment to negotiate with the black majority."

De Klerk's liberalising steps also opened the door to negotiations between the black majority population and the white minority-led government.

"I view it (the South Africa decision) positively and I think most people around the world will," President George Bush told reporters.

He said the changes announced on Friday in Pretoria could mean a re-examination of US sanctions, but no immediate action.

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They include a ban on new loans to the South African government and South African business, a ban on imports of South African iron, coal, steel, uranium and textiles, a ban on exports to South Africa of crude oil, petroleum products and weapons, and bans on US and South African airlines landing in each other's countries.

Bush has opposed efforts to add to those sanctions, saying the ones in effect did not work.

But since taking office he and his

top aides have expressed interest in forging a more bipartisan policy.

Last October, his administration admitted sanctions helped stimulate "new thinking" in Pretoria and said it would look at tough penalties unless De Klerk — who had recently taken office — took action to end apartheid by June 1990.

Optimistic

From the beginning, US officials were optimistic De Klerk would be a new kind of leader.

But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, while praising his offer of negotiations as courageous, said he still had not fulfilled the criteria stipulated by Congress for the president to lift sanctions.

These include the release of Mandela and all other political prisoners, and — even to ease restrictions partially — freezing three of four conditions — repeal of the Group Areas Act, agreement to enter into good faith negotiations with truly representative members of the black majority without preconditions.

All four must be met to lift sanctions totally.

frontline nations — six black countries championing Africa's fight against South Africa's white minority rule.

Mandela's wife, Winnie, a prominent activist in her own right, said after hearing about De Klerk's speech: "We are not prepared to accept a bone with meat."

She said De Klerk should have ended the three-year-old national state of emergency and 40 years of enforced racial segregation.

But young blacks in Cape Town and Johannesburg appeared to differ as they took to the streets in a spontaneous celebration that was not seen even when De Klerk released several top ANC leaders from prison late last year.

ing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on trade with South Africa.

He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher probably would accept an invitation to become the first Western head of government to visit South Africa since 1960.

Thatcher has already invited De Klerk to Britain for talks and accolades have started to pour in from Europe and Africa, with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda complementing him on "a job well started."

Kaunda is the head of southern Africa's important

Geagea battles for survival

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian warlord Samir Geagea is battling for survival in east Beirut's shell-blasted streets.

After seizing the leadership of the Lebanese Forces militia in a bloody coup against his former friend Elias Hobeika in 1986, Geagea turned the LF into the strongest private army in Lebanon.

A tall, moustachioed man constantly surrounded by bodyguards, Geagea's state-within-a-state policies have run head on into those of his arch-Christian rival, army General Michel Aoun.

Aoun considers himself the only legitimate strongman and tax collector in the Christian enclave.

The general's attempts to disarm and disband the LF led this past week to some of the most vicious battles witnessed in Beirut in 15 years of civil war. At least 145 people have been killed in three days of inter-Christian fighting.

"If the operation is to wipe out the LF, this will not happen and I will not allow it to happen," Geagea said.

Until September 1988 when Aoun was named to run an interim government, Geagea, 37, was master of the enclave, levying taxes from ports and residents and introducing social schemes ranging from funding heart surgery and school books to running a fleet of buses.

Geagea built up the LF into a 10,000-strong force backed by 200 tanks, heavy artillery and support weapons to counter the Muslim threat but the guns were turned inwards when the two Christian leaders' differences proved irreconcilable.

Geagea infuriated Aoun by refusing to support him against the Syrian-backed, internationally-recognised government of President Elias Hrawi. Outgoing president Amin Gemayel named Aoun as interim leader in 1988 after parliament failed to elect a new head of state.

Although Geagea advocates replacing Lebanon's current confessional system with a federal one, he has not publicly opposed an Arab-sponsored peace pact rejected by Aoun.

The general, starved of funds by his Muslim foes in west Beirut who control the Central Bank, also turned covetous eyes on the militia's tax income, estimated at \$50 million a year.

Until Aoun's rise to power, Geagea was for many of the enclave's 900,000 Maronite Christians their only hope against feared domination by Syria which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

American University of Beirut before graduating.

One of Geagea's former teachers said the militia chief's ideal was to be "an all-knowing commander, truthful... courageous to the most extreme limits."

"Despite what they say about his violence, he was always the perfect gentleman," the teacher added.

Geagea steadily increased his authority following the 1982 assassination of the charismatic Bashir Gemayel, who founded the LF out of disparate Christian militias.



Geagea (L) and Aoun: battling it out

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1990

Letters to the editor

Appalling statement

SIR: I have read with considerable dismay a news item that appeared in your newspaper under the heading, "Pakistanis urged to help poor back home."

Although I have no reasons to doubt the good intentions of the president of the Pakistan People's Club, Kuwait, and the learned gathering of the members, the statement that was issued is outrightly appalling.

It is quite obvious that the association president and its members have explicitly demonstrated a complete absence of the knowledge of progressive democratic trends in contemporary sociolinguistic politics. The present-time tendency is to avoid and discard the use of all such words that imply an inequality of power-relations among people and are basically degrading in connotation. For example, the use of the word "servant" is not permissible in sophisticated and mature discourse; it has been substituted for by the phrases "domestic helper." The idea is to emphasise the function of a person rather than the negative social stigma that we so emphatically attach to certain groups of people in a society.

Considering this perspective, it is inexcusable for the president of the People's Club in Kuwait to use the term "poor Pakistanis". It would have been acceptable if the club president had used the phrase "economically deprived people of Pakistan". Such a term would stress the elements of "deprivations" (they can be deliberate or the result of continued political mismanagement) rather than the egotistical emphasis of socio-economic differences and the accompanying inevitable superiority-inferiority complexes. Words are important; they are the mirror-reflections of human thoughts and feelings. Progressive and sensitive people reading the news in question may definitely conclude that the Kuwait's People's Club and its president are still out-of-touch with a proper perspective on Pakistanis' poverty and its complex intrinsic elements. Considering the contents of the statement, such a conclusion is not far-fetched.

Noor's summons for a bi-annual service conference

country as well as Islam's halal-e-haram

impurities. It suffers from a pariah status

understanding of the Islamic political doctrine.

Islam postulates a welfare state (Inglehart)

state, the relations amongst different socio-economic groups are based on equality, particularly in the area of physiological parameters.

The focus is on the idea (either ideology) that economic differences among people must not lead to the psychology of superiority and inferiority. Consequently, it is the state's responsibility to care for the economically deprived and needy people. The essence and the undercurrents of this notion are to make sure that an Islamic society does not directly create groups or institutions of the "givers" and the "receivers"; that would be directly contrary to Islamic norms. It is in this context that the notion of zakat makes the most humanistic sense. The "receivers" benefit directly from the state's institutional funds and are not subjected to a loss of integrity and dignity; neither do the "givers" feel morally superior, elevating their "egos" perniciously and preposterously.

Charity is forbidden in Islam; the origin of charitable organisations was conceived in the reactionary colonial mind with the aim to humiliate natives. It is the concept of generosity that is fundamental to Islamic teachings with explicit forbiddance to indulge in ego elevation.

The charity that Noor seems to be advocating, is too close to the ego elevation syndrome to be considered seriously in this time and age. It is simply outdated and undignified. In addition, Noor has not identified what kind of long-term or permanent economic institution is likely to emerge out of this suggestion. With no offence to the People's Club and its officials, this seems like an indulgence in the usual rhetorical redundancy — an attempt at looking good and noble. Words do not resolve national problems; serious thinking does. People have to get short on rhetoric and long on deeds.

Another problem with the Pakistan People's Club statement is the call for the unity of all Pakistanis. It is not clear what is intended by this call. Democracy is not politically partisan by its nature; the fundamental notion in democratic cognition is the flourishing elements of diversity, both in ideals and ideas as well as in the fundamental political infrastructure at various levels of society. I see no reason why all Pakistanis must belong to one particular political association or units under one specific social or political leadership. In fact, diversity can greatly enrich and enhance the process of political maturity for Pakistan, given the assumption that all groups and their respective members maintain respect for others and allow each other freedom of expression. My feelings are that Noor's position is that leadership for the Pakistani community in Kuwait must be consolidated in one identity. Quite frankly, there are no justifiable grounds for this kind of demand.

It is hoped that the Pakistani embassy staff will continue to serve the Pakistani public and not assume a bi-partisan political role.

Dr Haider Mehdii,

Kuwait University.

5-day week

SIR: Now that the government is talking about the 5-day work week I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the idea.

There are several good reasons for the adoption of this practice. By simply adding about 45 minutes to the work day, families could have more time to relax and enjoy each other. For the modern Kuwaiti family where both parents usually work outside the home and children have studies and outside

Home of the world's finest tea

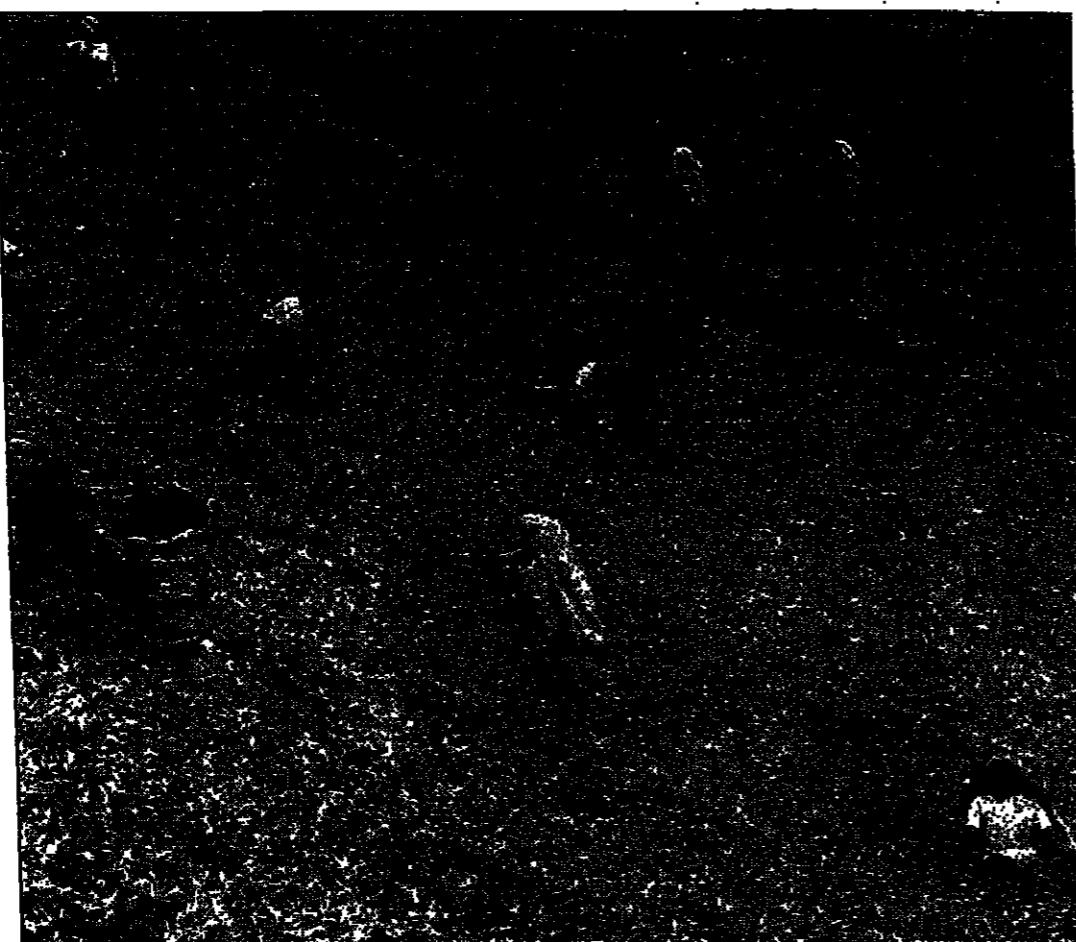
AMONG the many records to its credit Sri Lanka can claim to produce the finest teas in the world, as well as to be the world's leading exporter. A fascinating subject, tea-growing in Sri Lanka began a little over a century ago, introduced during the British colonial era, as an afterthought to coffee, ravaged by a pest which could not be controlled.

Today, with more than half a million acres under the crop, and a daily output of around a million pounds of manufactured tea a day, it is Sri Lanka's main export and source of foreign revenue.

James Taylor pioneered commercial tea-growing in Sri Lanka in 1867, on remote and lovely Loleecandura. Like his sturdy mother-bushes, tea has survived many sore trials — among them diseases such as blight tea tortrix as well as periodic price slumps.

A tree camellia, (botanically, *camellia sinensis*) tea needs a subtropical climate and sloping terrain. Mutations in flavour and strength record nuances in altitude, soil, rain and sun and tea, like whiskey varies from glen to glen. The abundant rain and sunshine of the foothills of Sri Lanka produces luxuriant growth but diffuse flavour. These low and medium-grown teas are useful, in the jargon of the trade, as 'fillers' in blends.

In the high sierra, brilliant sunshine, cold nights, seasonal dry



Women picking tea at an estate in Sri Lanka

winds and the nursing of mists, retard growth but conserves and distils an unmistakable and

intimidating flavour in the leaves. These are the precious, aromatic high-grown teas of Nuwara

Eliya, Dimbula and Uva, which have spread the fame of 'Ceylon' teas (the tea industry still uses Sri

Lanka's former name as it has a strong identity) in the bonded warehouses and auction rooms of Mincing Lane, the London head-quarters of the international tea trade.

Tea is grown in some of Sri Lanka's dramatically beautiful areas — tea 'estates' as the plantations are called, especially in the higher elevations are extremely scenic. Cloudbound mountains, deep valleys and dizzy chasms, pure, cool scented air and always close at hand, the music of falling water. Graceful grevilleas and gums planted for shade and wind-break and drifts of colourful wild-flowers that defy the most determined of weavers. Neat, tidy, tacky processing factories which give out a strong and fragrant aroma from the toasting leaves and stretching endlessly, the green tea bushes, contoured carefully to valley and spur.

Tea is grown from seed or from cuttings made from pedigree mother-bushes and is contour planted to anchor the top-soil. The bushes are stunted to a workable height by hard pruning. The tender terminal shoots (two leaves and a bud) are picked in a ten-day rotation, usually by Tamil women-pickers (much of the labour force on tea-estates are Tamils of South Indian stock), who, with their bright saris and shoulder-baskets have become a kind of trademark of the tea industry.

Message from Hon D.B. Wijetunge, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

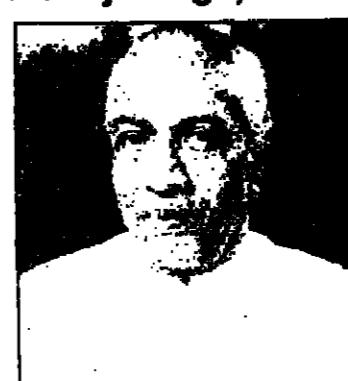
ON THE 4th of February this year, we will be celebrating once again our National Day. Under the inspiring leadership and guidance of his Excellency R. Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka we face the coming years with confidence.

One of the great achievements for which all of us can take credit is our continued adherence to the principle of democratic freedom. Our conduct of the presidential and parliamentary general elections showed clearly to the whole world our people's commitment to the rule of law and sovereignty of the people.

We have also during this period continued the process of coming to an understanding on many national issues with people whose views differed from ours, by way of consultation, compromise and consensus.

A significant milestone in this process has been our success in bringing back into the democratic mainstream sections of the movements and forces that had abandoned their faith in democracy in the recent past.

We have been able during the past year to devote a great deal of our energy to the task of economic development of our country.



While paying particular attention to the economic development of the country we have also not forgotten our social and moral obligations. The govern-

ment has shown its concern for the welfare and happiness of the backward and the less fortunate sections of our people. The poverty alleviation programme of His Excellency R. Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka to which the country has dedicated itself and which is now receiving worldwide recognition and acclaim, will go a long way, in the reduction of poverty in our country. The disadvantaged sections of our people will be contributing to the nation's wealth instead of being a drain on it.

I should also like on this occasion to say how thankful we are to the thousands of Sri Lankans now living abroad and who have shown such great consideration for the welfare of our people. We are also grateful to the many friendly countries that have given us assistance and shown us their goodwill.

With the trust and confidence in ourselves and the goodwill of others, I am certain that we can face the challenges in the future with courage and hope.

Let us therefore resolve to re-dedicate ourselves on this day to serve our motherland to the best of our ability.

Message from Hon. Ranjan Wijeratne, Minister of foreign affairs

"A YEAR has passed since the government headed by H.E. the President R. Premadasa has been in office. Significant changes and advances have been made in the manner in which the new administration has functioned. In the sphere of Sri Lanka's overseas representation, a major change has been made to restructure our orientation to bring trade and investment promotion under the supervision of our missions abroad.

Within Sri Lanka the past year has been a period of trial. However, the threat posed to democracy has been contained. The people of Sri Lanka responded whole-heartedly to the government's call to restore normalcy. It is fitting that on the occasion of the anniversary of our independence we pay tribute to the courage and innate good sense of Sri Lanka's people.

They unhesitatingly rejected the call from certain misguided elements in our society, to stray from the path of democracy, a path that we have followed unwaveringly for close upon six decades. The role played by our armed services and the valor and dedication they have displayed



cannot be under-estimated.

"Peace and harmony have been steadily restored during the year. Two momentous developments must be highlighted. For the first time a major militant group commenced a dialogue with the government and this has contributed to restoring normalcy in the North and East of Sri Lanka. The other is that our close dialogue with the new government in India has brought about a climate of mutual understanding and trust and we greatly welcomed India's assurance that the IPKF will be withdrawn at the

latest by 31 March 1990, if not earlier. The nation's energies and efforts are being directed towards the healing of wounds, reconciliation and renewal. Equality of all citizens, regardless of community or creed is the bedrock on which the edifice of a new order is being built.

"Our foreign policy reflects our commitment to strengthening and expanding the traditional ties of friendship that bind us to the SAARC nations. We look forward to celebrating the SAARC summit this year in Colombo.

"The occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the independence of Sri Lanka affords us the opportunity to greet our Lankan officials living abroad. The contribution made by them is of great importance.

"Their efforts, in no small measure help keep the image of the country burnished. I am confident that on this day their thoughts are with us and that they will continue to give us the generous support that they have given us so unstintingly, to make Sri Lanka live up to its name — the 'Responsible Isle.'

Let us all pray for peace and

Message from HE Latif Sheriffdeen, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Kuwait

THE forty-two years, which had passed since independence, is just a fraction of that proud past for a nation which inherits a culture and a heritage which has withstood vast tribulations and crises.

Our fore-fathers have always fought for freedom and the just rights of the mother land. Many a struggle have been launched by them and won for the sake of succeeding generations; 'unity' had been the hallmark of all their successes.

During the last decade too, we faced very challenging situations as a nation. Undoubtedly we will emerge victorious with the lessons learnt from history, making it possible for the decade 1990 to

be one of "unity and development".

Already several programmes like 'Janasaviya' providing assets to the assetless and employment to the unemployed, and future programmes under modern technology for 21st century, targeting economic and social development of the nation have been launched. The million houses programme which has been acclaimed world-wide and the massive irrigation works which have been completed are monuments for the future. The visionary leadership of H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka has brought social cohesion and political unity with the philoso-

phy of consultation, compromise and consensus.

On a regional and a global level our active participation in the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations system helped the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of "the land."

The relations between Sri Lanka and the comity of nations have developed tremendously during the past decades.

Kuwait-Sri Lanka relations have been strengthened with each passing year. Our relations go beyond the time of Ibn Batuta, the Arab explorer who landed in southern Sri Lanka,

during the 14th century. On a common bondage of equality our two nations will undoubtedly strengthen their ties under the leadership of H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the President of Sri Lanka and H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Sri Lankans living in Kuwait are ample testimony to this long standing relationship. I am personally heartened to note that they contribute in great measure to the nation-building tasks of the state of Kuwait. I also record with gratitude the sacrifices they make towards their motherland, which has helped in the development efforts.

I take this opportunity to bless

that the Kuwait-Sri Lanka relations will be further enhanced and strengthened in the years to come. I also wish to convey my warmest greetings to all my compatriots, on this very happy occasion.



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Latif Sheriffdeen

Aesthetic beauty of handicrafts

WORLD market trends indicate a growing demand for hand crafted goods from developing countries. High labour rates in the developed world and the preference for exclusive, hand made products over mass-produced goods among the affluent are contributory factors. A desire for products made of natural raw material rather than synthetic reflects the current back-to-nature trend among the young. Handcrafted items which express personality and individuality are valued as a means of relieving uniform surrounding in housing complexes and apartments.

THE ARTS and crafts of Sri Lanka reflects skills handed down through generations from father to son. Using age-old techniques and indigenous materials, today's craftsmen turn out a stunning array of items which are not only ornamental, but of utility value in the modern household. These designs are mostly traditional, inspired by ancient myth, legend and spiritual belief and also the fauna and flora of the island. They express the purity and aesthetic grace of the Aryan and early Indic artistic traditions that Sri Lanka, being an island, has been able to preserve.

Today an active effort is being made to encourage these craftsmen to develop their art with contemporary technical support and expertise. Hence new products adopted to suit market demand are also being promoted.

The Ministry of Rural Industrial Development is taking steps to establish a National Crafts Council, specific Craft Councils, the Sri Lanka Handicrafts Board and a National Design Centre to promote and foster handicrafts and improve their quality.

The Department of Marketing and Export Promotion of Handicrafts is presently charge with the task of improving craft standards in Sri Lanka and raising the economic level of its craftsmen. It provides raw materials, exercises quality control and promotes new designs and products. Goods are purchased from registered suppliers and every article is coded so that it could be traced back to the producer. Marketing is effected through a network of nineteen sales outlets known as Laksa. In 1981 sales at these craft emporia amounted to Rs. 35 million, an increase of 8.6% over the previous year. The Fort Laksa, located in the heart of Colombo's shopping district alone accounted for sales of over Rs. 21 million. Meanwhile, export markets are being developed through participation in several prestigious trade fairs in Belgium, U.K., Switzerland, West Germany, Bahrain, Dubai and India.

Wood carvings
The patience and dedication of the craftsman is clearly apparent in the intricate designs and symbols of Sinhala art which adorn handicrafts made of wood. A varied range of ornaments, statues, wall plaques and utility items are turned out in ebony, teak, satin and other local woods.

Masks
Brilliant colouring and vivid design characterise lacquer ware. Turning and finger nail work are the techniques currently used. In the former the designs are applied while the article is turned by a lathe while in the other method the craftsman skillfully works in the design with his left thumb nail. The most distinctive work is done in the Matale area.

Drums
Intriguingly grotesque and colourful are the masks used in devil dancing and exorcising ceremonies. Many are masterpieces of the wood carver's art. The principal colours used for painting the masks are red, green, yellow and black and they come in sizes ranging from a few inches to about three feet in height. Further, key tags and buttons are made of these mask designs in miniature.

Coconut shell ware
The ubiquitous coconut shell, carved and polished provides a wide range of attractive utility items such as bowls, spoons, slides and buttons.

Handloom textiles
Weaving of home spun cotton cloth was once universal in the Central Province of the island. Traditional designs incorporating bird, flower, animal and geometric motifs are used in tapestry colour combinations in the weaving of very attractive furnishing materials such as bed spreads, curtains, table cloths and table mats.

Satins
Daring originality, artistic fin-



Peacock chair... one of the many ornamental creations in Rattan at a roadside stall of a cane craftsman

esse and vibrant colours characterise the versatile art of batik. The batik industry is not indigenous to Sri Lanka. Yet the country can boast of a number of internationally famed batik artists whose work has a high overseas demand.

Lace work

The delicate work and intricate designs plus incredible strength in spite of its gossamer-like texture make hand-made lace a prized possession. Introduced in the 16th century by the Portuguese, lace making has its home in Galle and Matara. Items made out of 'Galle Lace' as it is termed includes handkerchiefs and napkin corner, place mats and pillow cases.

Embroidery

A lesser known ancient art, but nevertheless one of the most elegant traditional embroidery is used today on ladies garments such as kaftans, kurta, maxis and ponchos.

Jewellery

Elegant simplicity, superb craftsmanship and rare value characterise this highly traditional art. In jewellery as in embroidery, there are two distinct types that exist up-to-date, namely Kandyan and Low country jewellery.

Kandyan Jewellery — chiefly gold chains, pendants, rings, ear-rings and bracelets. The designs are usually those of flowers, seeds, fruits and birds.

Low country jewellery — includes variety of combs, brooches, buttons, hair pieces and rings in which 'Matara diamonds' (white zircons) are largely used. The articles bear a distinct resemblance to Portuguese type jewellery of the 17th century.

Today, semi-precious stones such as sapphires, tourmalines, rubies and amethysts are widely used in the making of jewellery.

Silverware

The hill country of Sri Lanka is well known for its exquisite silverware. Even today the Kandyan craftsmen enjoy a very high reputation for carving intricate designs in silver ware.

Articles available for sale range from trays, trinket boxes, and candlesticks to filigree and costume jewellery.

Brassware

A glow as rich as gold combined with some of the purest forms of traditional Sinhala designs make brassware one of the most attractive of the ancient arts. Brassware can be divided into two types — the wrought and the cast. Out of the former are created boxes, trays and vases, bowls and lamps. The two chief techniques employed for ornamentation of brass work are piercing and damascening.

Shell ware

Beautifully engraved and elegantly carved shellware items

are some of the exquisite items made out of these carved shells.

Pottery

Earthenware items were used by the Ceylonese for ceremonial, architectural and domestic purposes. The methods of ornamenting earthenware vessels have been painting, incising, stamping and slip painting. The art of pottery has not lost its originality and today we find plenty of articles for household requirements ornamented in the old techniques.

The pottery industry has been organised by the state on the basis of semi-mechanised workshops on co-operative lines. The Ceramic Corporation turns out today quality tableware and

Manpower, an abundant resource



Training facilities in Sri Lanka have equipped the people with knowledge and skills for employment

IN SOCIO-POLITICO terminology Sri Lanka is one of the Third World Countries. As common to all Third World countries one of its distinguishing features is the availability of human resources over and above the requirements of economic activities in the country. This created a situation of unemployment which has adverse results. The sustenance of an economically unproductive population is a severe strain on the limited economic resources of the country and the problem of unemployment has got the highest priority in all the development strategies of Sri Lanka since independence, in 1948.

The development of manpower resources of the country has long been identified as a means of solving the unemployment problem. The availability of free education facilities from primary to university level has not only given Sri Lanka the highest level of literacy in the region but also has provided an educationally articulate workforce.

Free medical facilities from birth to death have promoted a high standard of health all over the country. The availability of training facilities in the professional administrative, technical and vocational fields have equipped the Sri Lankans with knowledge and skills of employment required for the country and the outside world where such knowledge and skills are scarce.

Ethnic religious and cultural plurality of the country has imbued in the Sri Lankans an ability to live in diversity while ascertaining individuality. Adjustability and adaptability inherent in them have placed them in foreign employments without causing much inconvenience to them and the environment in which they work.

A working knowledge of a foreign language have increased their employability in labour markets outside the national frontiers. The knack for grasping technological intricacies combined with agility of manipulative skills have equipped the Sri Lankans adequately to successfully face the challenges of foreign labour markets.

Sri Lankan manpower has contributed in no small way to the development activities of the Gulf countries during the last one and a half decades. Sri Lankan skills have been utilised in professional, administrative, technical and vocational fields, where such skills were needed. At present in Kuwait alone the Sri Lankan work force is estimated to be close upon 89,000. They are deployed in government, ministries, commercial, industrial and service establishments, and personal and domestic services.

One of the peculiarities of the Sri Lankan labour in Kuwait is the preponderance of females over males.

There are about 76,000 Sri Lankan women employed in various sectors including professional, administrative, technical and vocational fields. But the overwhelming majority of women are engaged in unskilled employment. They provide

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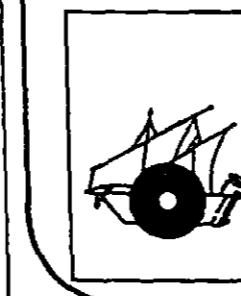
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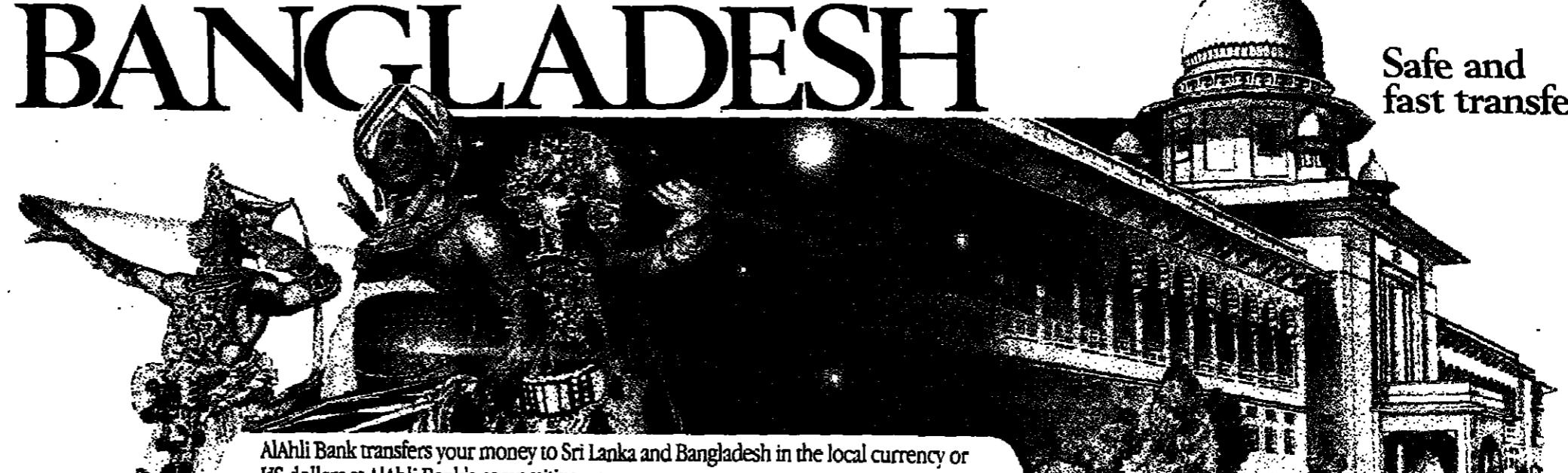
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Filming on location

By B.C. Perera

THAI and African jungles, Burmese villages, Indian kingdoms, montane tea plantations and the depths of the Great Barrier Reef — all these and many other exotic locations have come together in Sri Lanka, in the make-believe world of the cinema.

Sri Lanka's advantages as a prime film location have been discovered by the best-known among film directors from the early fifties, and have made it one of the most sought after filming sites today.

While on location in the Kandyan hills for his movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," none other than Hollywood's Steven Spielberg said, "This (Sri

Lanka) is a film set made by God himself." This is a film-maker's dream." Making this film in the early eighties, he used Lankan locations around Kandy for scenes of the former Indian maharajahs' kingdoms in the Himalayan hills.

According to Spielberg, in Sri Lanka there is a change of scenery almost every fifty miles, while in most other parts of the world such a change is available only after travelling several hundreds of miles. Like many other film-makers, Spielberg had another reason for being attracted to Sri Lanka: the traditional hospitality and the excellent holiday prospects. "The crew and the cast like to come to work in Sri Lanka because they can make their stay here a holiday in itself.

That is why I noticed my crew and cast coming with their entire families," he said.

Sri Lanka's reputation as a versatile and desirable film location has been growing over several decades. In the early fifties the celebrated David Lean made the "Outcast of the Island," starring Trevor Howard, in which locations here were chosen to depict a Burmese village. Then came "The Purple Plain" which featured Gregory Peck at the height of his fame, and "Elephant Walk" which starred Elizabeth Taylor and Peter Finch.

While these were happy beginnings, the country's real claim to "stardom" as a film site came with that David Lean production which made cinema history:



Sri Lanka's scenic beauty makes it a paradise for film makers from around the world

"The Bridge on the River Kwai". In "The Bridge" Sri Lanka was chosen to stand in for Thailand, where there was unrest at the time. It was made almost entirely on location at Kitulgala, off the Colombo-Ratnapura Road, using a large number of local extras and supporting technical crew. The Oscar-winning hit, which starred Alec Guinness in one of his best remembered roles, depicted the true story of how hundreds of Allied prisoners-of-war perished in building a rail bridge for the Japanese. The producers found little difficulty in constructing a whole bridge across the river at Kitulgala and later blasting it, together with several rail bogeys, for the final scenes of the movie. The Kitulgala Resthouse, which was the centre of operations for the film, still displays several sepia photographs of the great experience which brought the place to international fame.

Soon the combination of welcome climate, abundant verdant valleys and hills, friendly people with a large number speaking English, the ever-present warmth of hospitality, comfortable hotels and the availability of good technical support through the growing Sri Lankan film industry made this country known to film-makers the world over.

In the sixties, a reputed German producer located his entire film "Three Yellow Cats" on the island. The film no doubt had a beneficial effect for Sri Lanka, since many Germans were exposed to the beauty of the country as the story took an adventurous scientist through some of Sri Lanka's most exotic places. Many believe that the German "tourist invasion of Sri Lanka" might have been prompted in some measure by this film.

A film in a different vein was "Tarzan the Ape Man" made in the seventies, which starred Bo Derek and was directed by her husband, John. It was made on location over an extensive area, which included the Kandyan hills, the hinterland of the Mahaweli River and its tributaries and in eastern Trincomalee. There is even today a "Tarzan Hotel", a small rural kiosk, beside the Mahaweli

tributary where most of the shooting took place.

The Dereks came back to make another spectacular film called "Ghosts Can't Do It," which was shot in Galle beside the historic Dutch fortress there, its harbour, and its old buildings such as the New Oriental and Closenberg Hotels. Some scenes were shot in the beach resort of Bentota before moving on to Negombo, north of Colombo. The production company decided to bring in a minimum of technicians and crew because as Bo Derek herself, with her husband agreeing, said: "Sri Lankan movie-men are good enough and even equal to those we have in Hollywood. So just as well, we employ your men and women."

Another film, expected to be a hit in the US after its record-breaking run in Germany, is the West German-Sri Lankan production "Cobra Heat", made entirely on Sri Lankan locations. The story involves a network of international drug traffickers with their headquarters in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Police joining forces with international police to hunt down the drug dealers. Sri Lanka's leading film star, Ravindra Randeniya, headed the local cast and shared the top credits with such big names as Elke Sommer, Tony

Kendall and Heather Thomas. Frontline roles for Lankan actors have become a pattern in many productions that come on location, as in the Australian tele-film about Charles Sobhraj, made for Television of Asia's "Most Celebrated Criminals". This production features Ravindra Randeniya together with several other local stars such as Henry Jayasena, Asoka Perera, Lucky Wickramayake and J.H. Jayewardene in key roles.

In fact, the current boast in Sri Lanka among those who offers facilities to Western film-makers who locate their films here is that they cannot only simulate most countries of the world here, but they can also provide men and women who can stand in for any race in the world. It was not surprising, therefore, that when Eurobrothers Productions of the United States brought their film "Iron Triangle" to Sri Lanka they not only found "authentic Vietnam scenes" for the whole film, but also found "Vietnamese" extras as well as both white and black "American" GIs.

In late 1988, one of the most interesting films to be shot in Sri Lanka was "Spoops", which brought together spies from the CIA in the US to the KGB in the Soviet Union to meet on a fictitious island and plot the fall of Wall Street. The film was made completely in Kandy and in the busy streets of Colombo.

The last days of the torturing Marcos' regime in the Philippines were enacted in the old colonial buildings, streets and by-roads of Colombo and at the international airport at Katunayake where the TV series "Dangerous Life". And in the TV series "Shadow of the Cobra", an Australian director presented to the world Asia's "killer of finesse", Charles Sobhraj (played by Art Malik), who is believed to have been responsible for at least 15 murders and a spate of sick robberies during the seventies.

The film was shot entirely in Sri Lanka, and New Delhi's high-security jail, the New Delhi court and that city's old colonial hotels and busy streets where Sobhraj stayed and carried out his nefarious activities were all replicated on location in and around Colombo.

The French, not wanting to miss out on using Sri Lankan locations, came here with a Kerala-based story of a little Catholic girl who claimed reincarnation from a previous life. Francois Villiers, one of France's leading directors, filmed on location in Negombo, Paitayagala and parts of Colombo. Director Villiers said of the local film

stars: "We brought a language coach to prompt them in their English language dialogue. The stars did their dialogue so well that the coach had no work at all!"

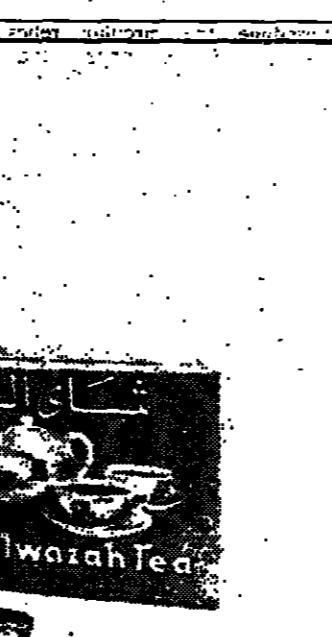
Film crew, technicians and even experts such as art directors, production managers and assistant directors, as well as hosts of extras, are available at rates comparable much cheaper than in most other countries.

Some locally based businesses have been formed to service foreign film-makers on location in Sri Lanka. These organisations maintain comprehensive lists of film actors, technicians and crew members and provide expertise and location props as well. They will arrange location inspections and, when locations are selected, handled the red tape of government procedures. Additionally, dealing with import and export procedures, making accommodation arrangements, giving advice local values, culture, religion and other aspects of this country, etc., are all part of the services they provide to their clients.

Sri Lanka has become a major filming site and both the Ceylon Tourist Board and Air Lanka, the national carrier, are now geared to service foreign film-makers who come here on location.



Typical scene of the southern coast of Sri Lanka.



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From the tea fields in the mountainous regions of Ceylon, the tender leaves and buds of the tea bushes are picked, processed, cleaned and purified from all strange unwanted material, then, the manufactured tea is tasted to ensure high quality in order to obtain only the best quality tea.

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- 1) The water used should be very clean.
- 2) Heat the water in a clean kettle until the water just reaches boiling point.
- 3) Put the required quantity of tea in a teapot and add the boiled water.
- 4) Allow the tea pot to stand 3 to 5 minutes, with tea brewing inside.
- 5) It is advisable not to keep the teapot on the fire boiling for a long time, as the tea could lose its taste, colour and aroma.

شاي الزوجة

من مزارع الشاي على سفوح جبال سيلان ومن شجيرات الشاي تقطف الثلاثة وريقات الأولى من البراعم وتقى معالجتها ومزجها وتنظيفها وتنقيةها من كل الشوائب. ثم يتم فحصها للتأكد من الجودة العالمية للحصول على أفضل أنواع الشاي.

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- 3 - توضع الكمية الالزامية من الشاي في الابريق المخصص للشاي ويصب عليها الماء المغلى.
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Our heartiest greetings to the Government and the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the National Day of Sri Lanka



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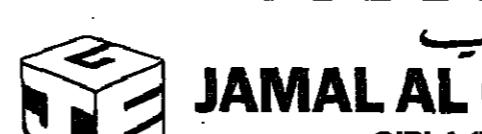
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Nature's wonder: The Horton plains

By Lal Anthonis

HIGH UP in the central hills of the island, nestled in a wild and windswept saddle at an elevation of 7,200 ft. on the Haputale range, where the bright and clear, the soft and misty change from minute to minute, is one of Lanka's most forbidding yet magnificent, fascinating and stupendously beautiful regions known as the Horton Plains. Discovered by Thompson Farr during the British colonial era and named after one of the British Governors, the plains offer the visitors

many a varied vista and an array of experiences.

As her name implies, here are a series of vast open plains called 'patal' in Sinhala - rolling along as far as the eye can see. Dripping every now and then into misty vales and mossy, muddy marshes, often rising up again into pointed peaks and running into deeply wooded areas of moist covered montane forest, whose large trees, their gnarled limbs draped with dripping lianas and lichens stand stark against the gloomy skyline braving the icy

winds. Vast jungle covered cliffs of awesome heights hang from the sides while ice cold, crystal clear streams, pools and waterfalls mark her verdant face. The Horton Plains grip you with their unique atmosphere, scenic beauty and ever changing character while you are there, and then beckons you again with their cold stark beauty when you have left.

Worlds End

One of the main attractions of the plains is 'Worlds End'. There are in fact two of them, the small

'Worlds End' and the big 'Worlds End'. They are about half a mile apart from each other. As you approach from the direction of Farr Inn, you first come to the small one where you can see the escarpment fall vertically to the Nagrac tea estate 900 ft. below. Continue on, and in a few minutes you'll be awed by the sight of the fall straight down to the same estate, but this time a dramatic 2,900 ft. below. After taking in this fantastic view for a few moments, walk through the thin fringe of bushes to your right and you will come across a slab of rock overhanging the drop. There is a thin crack on this. Lie down and put your eye to it. There is no doubt that there could be no closer experience to being airborne than actually flying.

From the big 'Worlds End' one could also get a stupendous view of the surrounding hills and mountain ranges wreathed in mists and clouds, and on clear days even of the Indian Ocean approximately 50 miles to the south. This cliff is about three miles from Farr Inn, two thirds of which is motorable.

At 7,850 ft and 7,741 ft the mountains of Kirigalpotta and Thotupola become the second and third highest peaks in the island, the first being Pidurutalagala at 8,280 ft. The former two are easily accessible on foot from the plains. A days outing to the two mountains can be a very interesting and rewarding experience. The road from Patipola skirts the summit of Thotupola just before arriving at the Plains. A few furlongs more along this road towards Farr Inn and look to your right. On a clear day you will be able to see in the distance, the 7,358 ft sacred mountain of 'Adams Peak' or 'Sri Pada' pointing to the azure blue sky.

closer look at these gentle pachyderms.



Caparisoned elephants at the head of the grandiose event

Colombo's Navam Perehera

IN FEBRUARY, Colombo comes alive to the throbbing of drums and the mystic rhythms of the Orient. Yes, it is time once again for the annual Colombo Navam Maha Perehera. This pageant is the biggest cultural happening in Colombo.

Kandy, situated in the hilly climes of Sri Lanka, is synonymous with its historic and magnificent Kandy Esala Perehera, which has brought Sri Lanka recognition the world over. Likewise, the Navam Maha Perehera is rapidly gaining association with the City of Colombo.

According to the Buddhist calendar, February, or the second month in the year, is known as Navam. It was in the month of Navam that the Buddha proclaimed Sariputta and Moggallana, who were monks in the Buddhist Order, to be his two chief disciples. It is to commemorate this important event in Buddhism that the Perehera is held.

The Perehera first commenced in 1979. Organisation of the pageant was by the Humupitiya Gangarama Temple, which remains the centre of activity of the Perehera. Most of its participants live in Colombo and its suburbs and usually arrive in the city a few days prior to the pageant and reside at the temple.

The elephants taking part in the Perehera are brought from distant places where they are employed in logging and other heavy work. During the period of the Perehera, they usually spend their time in the Viharamahadevi Park, a short distance away from the temple. This provides an ideal time to befriend and take a

Indication

The whips are wielded by a handful of 'kassakaray' or whip-crackers who head the Perehera. Their arrival is a sure indication that the Perehera is on its way.

Information

The whips are wielded by a handful of 'kassakaray' or whip-crackers who head the Perehera. Their arrival is a sure indication that the Perehera is on its way.

A combination of excitement and nostalgia strikes one on hearing the first drumbeats. The drummers are an integral part of the Perehera. Without their active participation no Perehera is complete. Unlike the other participants, the drummers do not have exotic costumes. They are the most simply dressed in white cloth, red sash and headband. Rhythmically they step sideways and backwards and move along in the Perehera drumming the beat with their fingers and sticks, infusing with the beat of their drums the very life and sustenance of the pageant.

The blending of the different drumbeats is soothing and harmonious.

Stepping in time to the beat of the drums are the Kandyan and low-country dance troupes. Each troupe consists of 50 or

more dancers. Altogether there are about 3,000 dancers who thrill the crowds of onlookers with dance forms special to Sri Lanka.

Attired in flowing, frilled, glittering outfits, complete with head dress and anklets, these dancers jump, swirl and whirl about and step to the rhythm of the drums with the expertise that comes naturally to the traditional dancer. The lithe and graceful movements of the female dancers have a language of their own.

The majority of the dancers and drummers are tradition bound. They hail from families where these forms of aesthetic art are handed down over the generations. As a result, it is rarely that you come across a non-professional.

Mingling with the dancers and drummers are the brightly caparisoned elephants. Some of them are even adorned with little twinkling jets. Over a 100 elephants, both big and small, take part in the Navam Perehera every year.

You may even spot a restless baby elephant swaying and his trunk to and fro impatient to get the Perehera over and done with.

Walking abreast the road in twos and threes these massive beasts patiently tread the Perehera route guided by their mahouts or keepers.

Taking pride of place is the majestic tusker bearing the casket of relics. Swathed in rich silks, his tusks sheathed in silver and gilded covering, very gently he sets foot aware of the precious load on his back, carrying out its responsibilities to perfection.



The Horton plains

the plains for a better part of a week. It is a varied experience.

Tracking

Jungle trail tracking would undoubtedly be one of the finest pastimes when in the plains. There are many different types of trails and all of them are very pretty. One could observe a wide variety of montane flora and bird life on these trails. Also keep a weather eye open for the butterflies, moths and other insects which could be fascinating and intriguing. Animal life is usually restricted to lizards of which there are three varieties and if lady luck is on your side you may come across sambur. Sri Lanka's largest species of deer, which can also be found in the foot hills and in the forests of the low country. Along these trails you also have a very good chance of observing the two types of monkeys found on the plains. Unlike their cousins in the low country dry zone, who are bold and not shy, sometimes perhaps too bold, the monkeys here are shy and wary of human presence. So it is best that you keep conversation to a minimum if at all, when on these trails, and at the first sight of these creatures movements too should be slow and careful.

Make sure you attire yourself in clothes that blend with the verdant surroundings and also see that you don't have any buckles or other trinkets that would glint in the sunlight.

You could choose from many different types of trails or bridle paths. Some of them are deeply wooded with a clear floor, while others are deeply wooded with deep fern underbrush and delightful miniature waterfalls. You could also choose trails which go

through just one particular type of vegetation for instance groves of strobilanthes. Here during certain seasons you could hear and see the beautiful and endemic jungle fowl. You could even choose open trails in the 'patnas' itself. Walks could be taken to places such as 'Worlds End' Bakers Falls, Kirigalpotta and Thotupola.

At 7,200 ft Horton Plains has a vegetation that is unique. The 'patnas' or the plains consist mainly of a tufty grass known as Crospogon. The plains dry up and become very brittle even during a slight drought. They then become a fire hazard. During a prolonged drought a carelessly thrown cigarette end could set off a fire that would devastate acres of plains before dying out. Also growing on the plains are two species of tiny blue flowers. The slightly larger of them is known as Aristea Ekloni and the other the blue Exacum (Exacum Macranthum). Yet another pretty flower found here is the deep purple coloured Osbeckia Walkeri, known in Sinhala as Bovita. You also come across it in the lowlands but never so pretty as in this elevation.

Tree species

The main canopy of the montane forest is a fairly large gnarled looking tree, mostly umbrella shaped with pretty spreads of white blossoms on the upper side of its leafy roof, known in the local dialect as Keona. Two other important trees are the Michelia Nilagirica (Wal Sapi in Sinhala) and the Rhododendron Zelanicum (Asoka or Marathmal in Sinhala) unmistakable with its leathery leaves and sprays of blood red blossoms. All three

species are endemic to this island.

Another interesting plant is the purple leaved Strobilanthes, Neelu in Sinhala. You would find groves of this on the walk to 'Worlds End'. The plant blooms only once in five years, drops its seeds and then dies. The next generation then gradually takes over.

The 'Horton Plains' take a special place in the 'Ecological' and perhaps 'Botanical' map of the world. In one of her marshes

grows a species of bog moss called the Sphagnum. This is the only place in the whole world where it is known to exist. It was once heavily exploited for orchid breeding but is now strictly protected. The visitor to this stark wilderness would be able to see a fair amount of wild life, depending on the length of his stay. Among them are three members of the cat family. Two of them, the leopard and the fishing cat could also be seen in the low country while the rusty spotted cat is found only in the hills. Even the two cats that are found in the low country seem to prefer and thrive in the upcountry and the environs of the plains at this elevation.

Birds

In the lower areas of the plains you would come across one of the island's prettiest birds, the beautiful Blue Magpie, another endemic type. This one is also seen across in the low country but not so common as up here. Also seen on the plains are a large variety of birds of prey. The most majestic of them is undoubtedly the Mountain Hawk Eagle, one of Sri Lanka's largest birds of prey and found only in these climes where the air spreads thin.

Two routes are recommended from Colombo. One would be via Avissawella, Kitulgala, Nuwara Eliya and Patipola which is around 130 miles, while the other is via Ratnapura, Balangoda, Haputale, Bora-landa and Ohiya. This route is around 145 miles.

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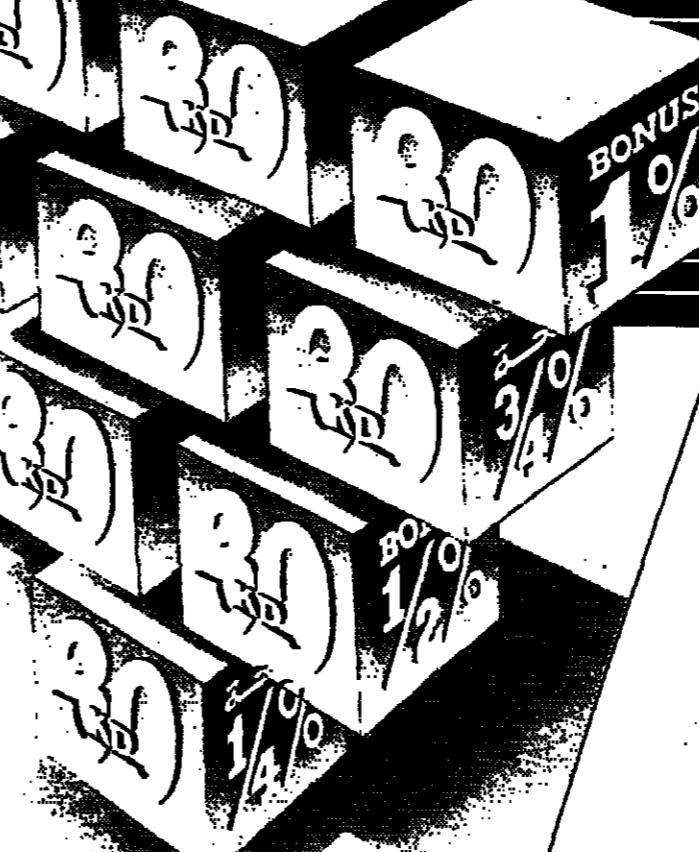
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Jan

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wall Street watch

January defies expectations

'Tokyo may now be calling the tune in New York'

NEW YORK, Feb 3, (AP): After welcoming the decade in high style with the Dow Jones Industrials hitting a record, the stock market sputtered and ended the month with hardly a benefit from the so-called January effect.

Except for the first and last trading days and a few sessions in-between, cash-rich institutional investors who sold stocks last year for tax purposes did not put their money back to work on Wall Street as in many Januaries past.

Disappointing corporate profits, rising interest rates and uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's credit policy were some of the reasons investors apparently decided to sit it out.

"We ended the year thinking a soft landing was a guaranteed phenomenon followed by the Fed easing and lower interest rates," said Alfred E. Goldman, vice president for A.G. Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis.

Instead, data suggested the economy was weakening further and the Fed's ability to loosen credit was slowed by concern about the dollar and keeping it competitive against other currencies, said Goldman.

"The January effect, we had two days of it in December," Goldman said. "January basically turned into a disaster, one of the worst on record."

In fact, some Wall Streeters said the January effect was offset by the Japanese effect—the ability of the Japanese market to influence, if not decide, the outcome of the US market.

Seminar on investment and banking

Stable economy gives new push to market

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times Staff

THE three-day seminar on investment and banking of Japan Week 1990 opened yesterday. The view of the institutional investor in Japan was presented by the Managing Director of Sanyo Securities Akira Takahashi, who spoke about business activities and changes over the past years. He added that Tokyo's market in the 1980s showed that the stock prices rose steadily during the last decade with the market index rising 5.9-fold and the market value has jumped 9.2-fold.

In 1988, the Tokyo stock market surpassed the New York stock market in terms of market value, thus becoming the largest equity market in the world.

He added that the strong growth in the Tokyo stock market can be attributed firstly to the high, stable growth of the Japanese economy and secondly to the growth of Japanese institutional investors.

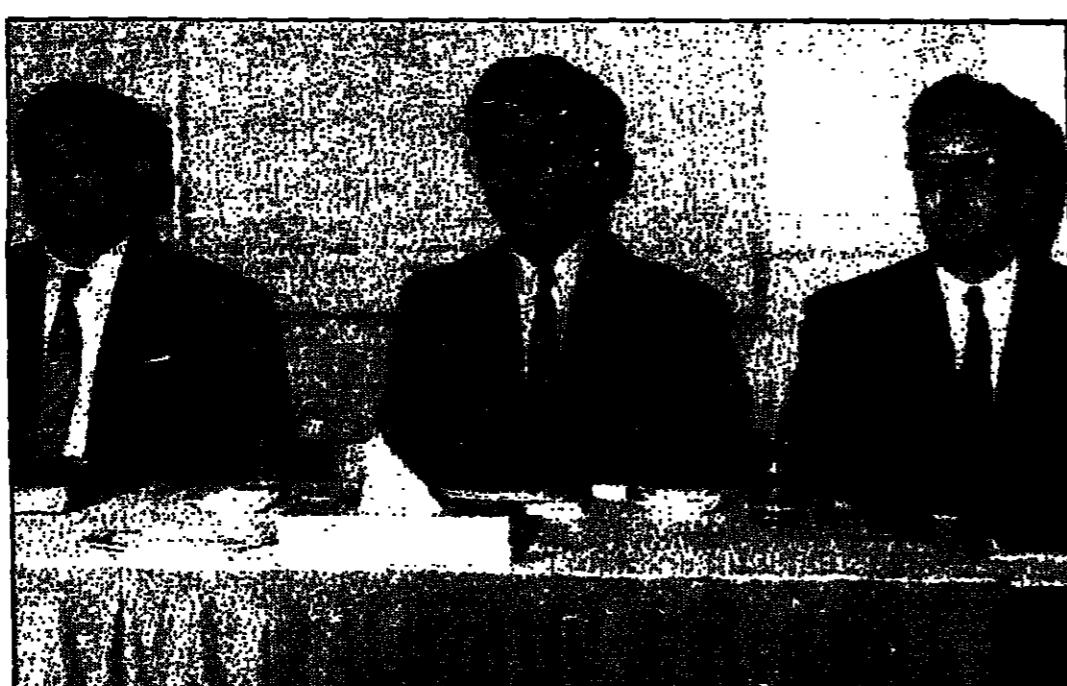
He said that funds managed by these investors in the Japanese stock market have further expanded during the last 10 years. Their stock holdings have continued to rise, along with the volume of trading.

The Japanese institutional investors can be divided into several categories. The major ones are city banks, regional banks, life insurance companies, non-life insurance companies and investment trusts.

He added that in the second half of the 1980s, institutional investors became active traders in the stock market for four basic reasons:

■ The industrial demand for funds declined, causing growth of lending by financial institutions to level off and thus resulting in increased surplus funds.

■ For fund managers, investment returns in fixed income securities were lower than expected returns because interest rates were at historically low levels. This led to greater emphasis of



Picture shows from (left to right) Akira Takahashi, Masanobu Takahashi and Ross Rowbury.

stock investment in hopes of generating higher returns.

■ In 1984, life insurance companies were authorised to conclude "tokkin" funds, or specified money trusts, followed in 1989 by the relaxation of regulations governing management of public funds.

Further easing of regulations led to stepped-up fund management through investments in stock.

■ In an effort to raise equipment funds or to improve their financial base, Japanese business have actively embraced equity financing both at home and abroad by issuing convertible bonds (CBs) and warrant bonds.

To facilitate the smooth issuance of large amounts of securities, Japanese business entrust financial institutions and related corporations with stock ownership on their behalf.

With a surge in mergers and acquisitions, cross-holding of shares was promoted. This resulted in significant increase in the number of stocks owned by corporations.

Takahashi said that as institutional investors began actively investing in stocks in the second half of 1980s, changes occurred in share prices formation and favourite issues in the stock market.

He also spoke about what instruments should become attractive investments in the 1990s. In this respect the economic and financial developments that can be anticipated are the following:

■ The world-wide growth of financial assets, surpassing the pace of growth of goods, is expected to continue, with the trend of credit relaxation likely to persist.

■ Asian NIEs, such as Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, will join the ranks of advanced industrial countries and will be pressed for adjustment in their economic structure.

In the third session Ross Rowbury, senior trader of Sanyo Securities Co. Ltd, spoke about investment timing improvement using the Sanyo Sirius System and Japanese investors' methods of stock selection and timing of trading.

Brazilian financial scandal

Officials, US bank executives accused

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 3, (UPI): Police have asked for criminal charges to be filed against 23 people, including five US executives of the Bank of America, in connection with a financial scandal involving Latin America's largest agricultural cooperative, court sources said yesterday.

The request stemmed from a six-year investigation of financial activities involving the co-operative headquarters of rural producers of Rio Grande Do Sul between 1979 and 1982.

The organisation, known as Centralsul, is considered to be the largest agricultural industrial co-operative in Latin America, exporting corn, soybeans, meat and leather from its base in Porto Alegre, some 2,000 miles (3,200 km) south of Rio De Janeiro.

Police, concluding their investigation Thursday, turned over a report to Brazilian courts accusing the 23 bank

executives and local financiers of financial "irregularities" in their dealings with Centralsul.

The irregularities allegedly included tax evasion, over- and under-valuing exports and reckless speculation on the Chicago commodities market. The report said the actions pushed a majority of the 80 companies that comprise Centralsul near or into bankruptcy.

Bank of America president Joel Korn, a US citizen who police said should be charged in the case, told the Sao Paulo newspaper Folha that the incidents reported in the police papers "occurred before my arrival in Brazil in 1981."

"The Bank of America has always been above board in all its dealings," he told the newspaper. He said the Bank of America had "handed over all the data necessary in the investigation."

Fernao Bracher, a former president of the Brazilian Central Bank who was also accused, said the request for formal judicial proceedings from police "has neither feet nor head" and that the investigations had "continued in an arbitrary and erroneous form."

Peter Magnani, a Bank of America vice president at the company's headquarters in San Francisco, said the police officer who sought the prosecution "is the same officer who said there was no criminal activity in 1986."

"It appears to us that this action was brought because of local political pressures from people who wish to continue civil actions," he said.

Magnani said the Bank of America and the Brazilian Central Bank investigated the allegations when they surfaced in 1983 "and we both concluded there was no wrongdoing on the part of Bank of

Firms continue to declare dividends

Indices dip in both markets

THE Alshab index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Jan 31, 1990 an average of 38.91 points with a decrease of 0.14 point—0.36 per cent—from last week's average of Wednesday Jan 24, 1990. The Alshab index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.98 points with a decrease of 0.45 point—0.67 per cent—for the same period, according to Alshab weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 5.65 million shares at a daily average of 1.13 million shares with a decrease of 63 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 3.04 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.120 million shares at a daily average of 1.224 million shares with a decrease of 30 per cent over last week's daily average of 1.740 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD2.41 million at a daily average of KD0.48 million, a decrease of 59 per cent from last week's daily average of KD1.16 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.307 million at a daily average of KD0.061 million, an increase of 5 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.058 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 51 per cent of total trading against 59 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 38 per cent, followed by The Commercial Bank at 17 per cent and The Gulf Bank at 16 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 27 per cent, in which, Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 68 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 32 per cent.

The industrial sector came third at 9 per cent, in which, Gulf Cables had the lead at 69 per cent followed by The National Industries had the lead at 31 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 56 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) at 41 per cent, and Bahrain Middle East Bank and by Bahrain Projects at 3 per cent.

The market showed signs of mixed performance which was reflected on five out of six indices and in both markets. We expect that outside intervention will try to activate the market during the present period which will last for a month or a little more taking into consideration that this year's cycle of slow activity will take a longer period than previous cycles because the slow activity started before the end of last year.

Kuwait shareholding companies Index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	31/01/90	24/01/90	points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	121.52	121.52	—
The Gulf Bk	29.26	29.70	-0.44
The Comm. Bk	23.27	23.71	-0.44
Al Ahli Bk	32.80	32.80	—
Bk of Kt & ME	30.97	30.97	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	27.86	28.29	-0.43
Burgen Bk	25.60	25.81	-0.21
Kt Finance House	74.15	74.98	-0.82
Total Index	236.84	236.84	-

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies Index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	31/01/90	24/01/90	points
First G. Bk.	89.66	91.03	-1.38
Bah. Int'l. Bk.	94.92	93.97	0.95
Bah. M.E. Bk.	43.18	43.94	-0.76
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	17.25	17.25	—
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	13.13	13.13	—
G. Med. Projs.	66.98	67.43	-0.45
Total Index	236.84	236.84	-

—Base period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Opec cuts oil output

LONDON, Feb 3, (Reuters): Opec cut its crude oil output in January from an eight-year high touched at the end of 1989 but not by very much, industry sources said yesterday.

A Reuter survey estimated that wellhead production by the 13 members averaged 23.25 million barrels per day (bpd) in January compared with a revised 23.9 million for December.

But it was still above the 22.1 million bpd supply ceiling set by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for the first half of 1990.

Some industry executives say Opec may need to make further output reductions to stop prices from easing in coming weeks.

"But we are not talking a price collapse," one added.

The executives said one or \$1.50 more could be lost off the price before seasonal gasoline demand in the northern summer leads a recovery.

North Sea Brent crude, a world benchmark, is now around \$20 per barrel. It briefly topped \$23 early in January when cold weather drove up US heating oil demand.

The monthly Reuter output survey uses information from industry and shipping sources.

The biggest cut in January — to two million bpd from 2.4 million — turned out to have been made by the United Arab Emirates. It cut largely to avoid damaging its reservoirs.

Other Gulf heavyweights Iran and Iraq were within quota. Nigeria cut at least 150,000 bpd to around 1.65 million to 1.7 million — still slightly above its quota.

A drop in Soviet supply also tightened the market although Western sources call statistics on that dubious.

One industry official said lower Soviet exports to East and West Europe meant giving Opec to 500,000 bpd of extra barrels.

But with most of the northern winter now over and refiners cutting the volume of crude which they process, traders said that buyer resistance may force Middle East output lower.

Familiarisation trip



announce that

Mr. Narinder Singh Sethi

Indian national

no longer represents the two companies and is not authorised to deal on their behalf inside and outside Kuwait as from 16/11/

1989. The two companies are

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Sudasiyah Auto Spare Parts Co. w.l.l.
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Violence hits share prices in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb. 3. (Reuter): Share prices have dived on Pakistan's main stock exchange and dealers blamed renewed ethnic violence in Sind province.

They said the fall on the Karachi exchange in the past week was temporary and discounted the current war of words with India over "Azmir as a cause.

"It has nothing to do with Kashmir," one dealer said.

"Riots, curfews and internal politics are responsible for the dive," another broker said.

The share price index fell to 1,588 at close of business on Thursday, from 1,615 a week ago and 1,632 on January 17, an exchange spokesman said. Chemical, sugar and cement shares dived and turnover dropped to about a million shares compared with 1.2 million on January 24 and 1.9 on January 17.

Emphasised still seemed to be on selling rather than buying as the new trading week began today "take, take," shouted a broker with his hands raised to attract buyers but exchange president Jahangir Siddiqi said there was no panic selling.

At least 15 people have died in violence between native Sindhis and Mohajir immigrants in Hyderabad since Tuesday.

Authorities imposed a curfew on part of Sind's second largest city to suppress rioting which has cost more than 1,050 lives in the province since 1986.

Barclays official to visit Gulf

ONE of the senior most managers of Barclays Bank Travellers Cheques — Richard Thomas Butt, CRSID — director responsible for Travellers Cheques and Credit Cards worldwide will be visiting the Gulf Region for the first time. His visit reflects Barclays Bank's commitment towards the region and its goal to foster closer ties.

But will be accompanied by Peter Graham Haward, Barclays Visa Travellers Cheques Director — marketing and sales, who has visited the region on three previous occasions always renewing his commitments in the Middle East and Andrew P. Campbell — regional director — Middle East and Indian sub-continent, who has been transferred from Barclays Tokyo to expand the Bahrain office and provide strong support to the Gulf region.

They will be touring Saudi Arabia from 2nd to 5th Feb, Kuwait 5th and 6th Feb, UAE 2nd and 7th Feb and Bahrain on Feb 8.

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 3. (Kuwait): Following are the average KRD interest rates of local bank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait.

Interest rates: 1 month 8.5%; 3 months 8.5%; 6 months 8.7%; 1 year 8.7%.

In addition to new orders, the Commerce Department

SCIMITAR, the investment arm of Standard Chartered Bank, launched a Bermuda-based Guaranteed Currency Fund on Thursday. The offer period of the Fund closes on March 9.

This latest Fund from Scimitar provides international investors with the opportunity for excellent capital growth by trading in the currency market, whilst guaranteeing that the original investment remains intact.

The manager is Scimitar Fund Management (Bermuda) Limited with administration provided by the Bank of Bermuda (tel. 809) 295 2302. Money invested in advance of the closing date will earn interest. The Fund is closed-ended with a 7-year life but early redemptions are possible after the first six months of trading.

Further information may be obtained from Scimitar Asset Management Ltd in London or any branch of Standard Chartered Bank.

World prosperity depends on trade talks success: US

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 3. (Reuter): The United States said today that successful completion of the 105-nation Uruguay round of world trade talks was essential if the world economy was to prosper into the 1990s.

"If we fail, we shall see countries turn more inwards, trade will contract and growth will be diminished," US trade representative Carla Hills told an annual meeting of business and political leaders in this Swiss ski resort.

Speaker after speaker at the World Economic Forum has stressed the urgency of reaching agreement in the four-year Uruguay round, designed to liberalise world trade rules.

But the European Economic Community said recently that the talks, which are due to end in December and cover 15 sectors of international commerce, could fail due to lack of agreement on the key issue of farm subsidy reform.

Washington wants to remove trade-distortioning farm subsidies, but there has been increasing speculation in trade negotiating circles that the EEC may not compromise.

One senior US official told a briefing in Davos he was concerned about the state of the

talks and feared the United States may fail to gain satisfaction on agriculture and intellectual property rights.

"We shall be able to cobble something together but it may not be saleable to Congress. I am worried that the trade hawks in Congress will throw it out," he said.

But Hills, speaking just hours before a meeting with EEC external relations commissioner Frans Andriessen in Davos, told reporters she believed agricultural reform could be agreed.

"It requires political will," she said.

Andriessen said earlier in a plenary session that the EEC was determined to achieve complete success on agriculture in the Uruguay round.

The EEC has already embarked on an exercise of bringing into operation a substantial reduction in the support we give to our agriculture," he said.

Hills, in another session today, said the United States, the main engine for world prosperity in the 1980s, could no longer perform this role as the new decade begins.

"The EEC, Japan, and perhaps Eastern Europe must also open their markets to

promote growth," she said.

She said the United States urgently needed agreement on protecting intellectual property rights since violations by other countries of US patents and copyrights were costing it about \$60 billion a year.

Hills also criticised Japan for doing too little to open markets to foreign businesses.

"I don't think economies that take advantage of open markets elsewhere but make it difficult for others trying to enter their markets are exemplary for creating a trading system," she said.

She said Washington was pressing Japan to open its markets to foreign-made satellites and super computers and remove discriminatory standards and high tariffs for forestry products and semi-conductors.

Hills believed it might be possible to bring the sensitive issue of textiles into the Uruguay round agreement, setting a transition period of several years for dismantling barriers.

World Bank President Barber Combs said industrialised countries were guilty of setting up barriers to prevent imports from developing countries of items such as shoes, agricultural produce and textiles.

Excessive speculation in trade negotiating circles that the EEC may not compromise.

One senior US official told a briefing in Davos he was concerned about the state of the

The week in business

US economy is not sliding into recession

NEW YORK, Feb 3. (UPI): The Commerce Department reported this week that the index of leading indicators, a set of 11 economic measures used to forecast economic activity, rose a strong 0.8 per cent in December.

This sharp rise, after a mere 0.1 per cent gain in November and a drop of 0.3 per cent in October, led analysts to say the economy may emerge from its sluggishness without falling into a recession.

The report, released Wednesday, was the strongest since April, when the index also climbed 0.8 per cent.

However, the National Association of Purchasing Management said Thursday that US economic growth continued to decline in January for the ninth straight month and at the greatest rate of decline since December 1982.

The purchasing managers' index fell in January to 45.2 per cent down from 46.7 per cent in December.

A reading below 50 generally indicates the

manufacturing segment of the economy is experiencing a decline in growth.

The association also revised the index for December down to 46.7 per cent, from the 48 per cent reported in January to take into account seasonal adjustment factors used by the Department of Commerce.

On Friday, the government said demand for airplanes, ships and military tanks sent factory orders up 1.9 per cent in December for a second monthly rebound after a disappointing October.

The \$4.5 billion surge to \$244.2 billion followed a 2.4 per cent increase in November and a 0.1 per cent drop in October, the Commerce Department said. Factory orders finished 1989 at \$2.8 trillion, 6.4 per cent ahead of 1988.

Analysts said the data was another indication that the economy is not sliding into a recession, and that the increase suggests the possibility of a steadier pattern of activity in the industrial sector, which has been weakening for the past several months.

Also Friday, the government reported January's mild weather boosted construction employment to offset jobs lost at temporarily idled auto plants, keeping the civilian unemployment rate unchanged since June at 5.3 per cent.

The Labour Department's Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that 6.5 million Americans were unemployed last month.

The nation's retailers Thursday reported brisk January sales gained spurred by markdowns that lured bargain-conscious shoppers.

Throughout the industry, sales gains at stores that were open one year earlier, known as same- or comparable-store sales and considered by analysts to be the best indication of performance, were better than expected, analysts said.

The nation's largest retailer, Chicago-based Sears, Roebuck and Co., said same-store sales were up 3.3 per cent, while No. 2 K Mart Corp. of Troy, Michigan, said same-store sales rose 3.1 per cent. Fast-growing

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of Bentonville, Arkansas, posted a comparable-store gain of 10 per cent.

On Wall Street, John J. Phelan Jr announced Thursday he is resigning as chairman and chief executive officer of the New York Stock Exchange at the end of the year.

Phelan, who has headed the exchange for six years, ruled out taking a government post at this time, quashing rumours that had swept the financial markets for two days that he would replace US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

No successor was named, and the board appointed a transition committee to make recommendations to the board this fall.

As chairman, Phelan saw the market through the insider trading scandals that shook Wall Street in the late 1980s and through its biggest loss ever when the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 508 points Oct. 19, 1987.

Phelan said he did not have any specific

plans, but said he hopes there will be "another career out there for me."

Stocks closed higher Friday as a new burst of takeover activity and a more upbeat perception of the economy fuelled a rally, helping the Dow to close just above the key 2600 level, at 2602.70.

Stocks closed mixed in quiet trading Thursday, with the blue chips pressured by profit taking after a 47-point rally Wednesday. It was the market's biggest rally since its surge to record high Jan. 2.

Stocks closed lower Tuesday and closed broadly lower Monday in moderate trading.

Before computerised buying kicked in, the Dow industrials were down about 25 points led by a slump in takeover-related issues.

Analysts blamed the sell-off in so-called "junk" stocks on severe weakness in the junk-bond market. The bonds of RJR Holdings Capital, issued to finance last year's \$25 billion leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco, the largest ever, were down sharply

after Moody's investors service downgraded the bonds.

On the oil market, the government reported Thursday that the difference between the price refiners paid for crude oil and the amount they charged for heating oil made from crude, soared fourfold during the recent December freeze.

But the energy information administration in its report to Congress noted it was "too early to translate these margins into profits."

The EIA report was made in response to congressional concerns and northeast governors' questions of how much profits rose and who profited from the near-record December cold snap and rise in consumer heating oil prices.

It noted that margins do not account for refining, distribution, transportation, storage and other costs, nor reflect the actual volume of product sold.

US wants lower rates: Brady

Inflation will continue to hover around 4pc mark

WASHINGTON, Feb 3. (UPI): The administration would like to see lower long-term interest rates. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Friday in remarks before the congressional joint economic committee.

Brady said it is "unfortunate" that recent increases in interest rates in Germany and Japan will "create an uptick in rates of 30-year US bonds."

He also acknowledged that differences exist between the administration and the Federal Reserve over the direction of interest rates.

"I think the administration probably has a bias toward (economic) growth that is greater than the Fed," he said.

Lower interest rates stimulate business activity and consumer buying. "Obviously we'd like lower long-term interest rates," Brady said.

For more than a year, the subject of my discussions with Greenspan is something best

to slow economic growth and keep inflation under control. At the same time, the Central Bank has been trying to avoid driving the economy into a recession.

Recent economic indicators have shown that the Central Bank has been successful in engineering this so-called soft landing.

But in recent weeks, differences have surfaced between the administration and the Federal Reserve after the Fed held its annual meeting in Washington.

Growth has been sustained internationally, as well, Brady said, with a 3 per cent economic expansion forecast for the industrial members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Brady also said ties between the United States and Japan are "increasingly close," noting that Japan is now the nation's second-largest trading partner after Canada.

Inventories dip

US factory orders rise

WASHINGTON, Feb 3. (AP): Orders to US factories for manufactured goods rose 1.9 per cent in December and closed out the year up 6.4 per cent, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable manufactured goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$244.2 billion in the final month of 1989 after rising 2.4 per cent in November.

The increase put orders for the year at \$2.83 trillion after a 9.7 per cent increase in 1988, the largest since 1983.

Durable goods were up 5.9 per cent for the year, following gains of 7.1 per cent in 1988 and 7.6 per cent in 1987.

For much of the year, Federal Reserve interest rate policy held back orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — because many of those goods are financed through loans.

But durable goods orders started to perk up late this fall and jumped 4.8 per cent in November and 3.2 per cent in December.

Primary metals orders were down 3.8 per cent to \$10.8 billion.

The often-volatile defence orders were off 11.6 per cent to 9.9 billion. Excluding defence, orders would have been up 2.5 per cent.

Non-durable orders were up 0.3 per cent to \$109.9 billion, led by a large increase in petroleum products.

In the key category of non-defence capital goods, a barometer of business investment plans, orders rose 1.8 per cent in December to \$45.9 billion.

Mexico to sign debt reduction pact

MEXICO CITY, Feb 3. (UPI): Mexico will sign tomorrow a crucial agreement with its foreign commercial lenders to significantly reduce — by some \$13 billion — the country's \$93 billion external debt, a senior official said yesterday.

Jose Angel Gurria, deputy finance minister for international affairs, said the agreement will cover the reduction of the debt's principal, the lowering of interest rates, and options to get new loans.

"The economic impact of the accord would mean that Mexico has only an \$80 billion foreign debt," Gurria said, commenting on the long-term financial impact of the international agreement.

Gurria, Mexico's chief negotiator with the country's foreign lenders, said the Central American nation's total foreign debt currently stood at \$93 billion, down from \$100 billion in 1988.

The agreement will be signed tomorrow between the Mexican government and a 15-member bank advisory committee representing about 450 foreign commercial lenders.

A Mexican Finance Ministry spokesman said a US government delegation, headed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, will attend the signing ceremony. The

debt reduction negotiations fall under the so-called Brady Plan aimed at helping rescue the Mexican economy.

Gurria estimated the agreement will allow Mexico to reduce into annual repayments by \$3 billion in 1990.

Mexico last year disbursed \$12 billion in much needed hard currencies to service its debt. Annual debt

service will be reduced to \$9 billion after the signing.

Under the agreement, Mexico

hopes to lower the amount required

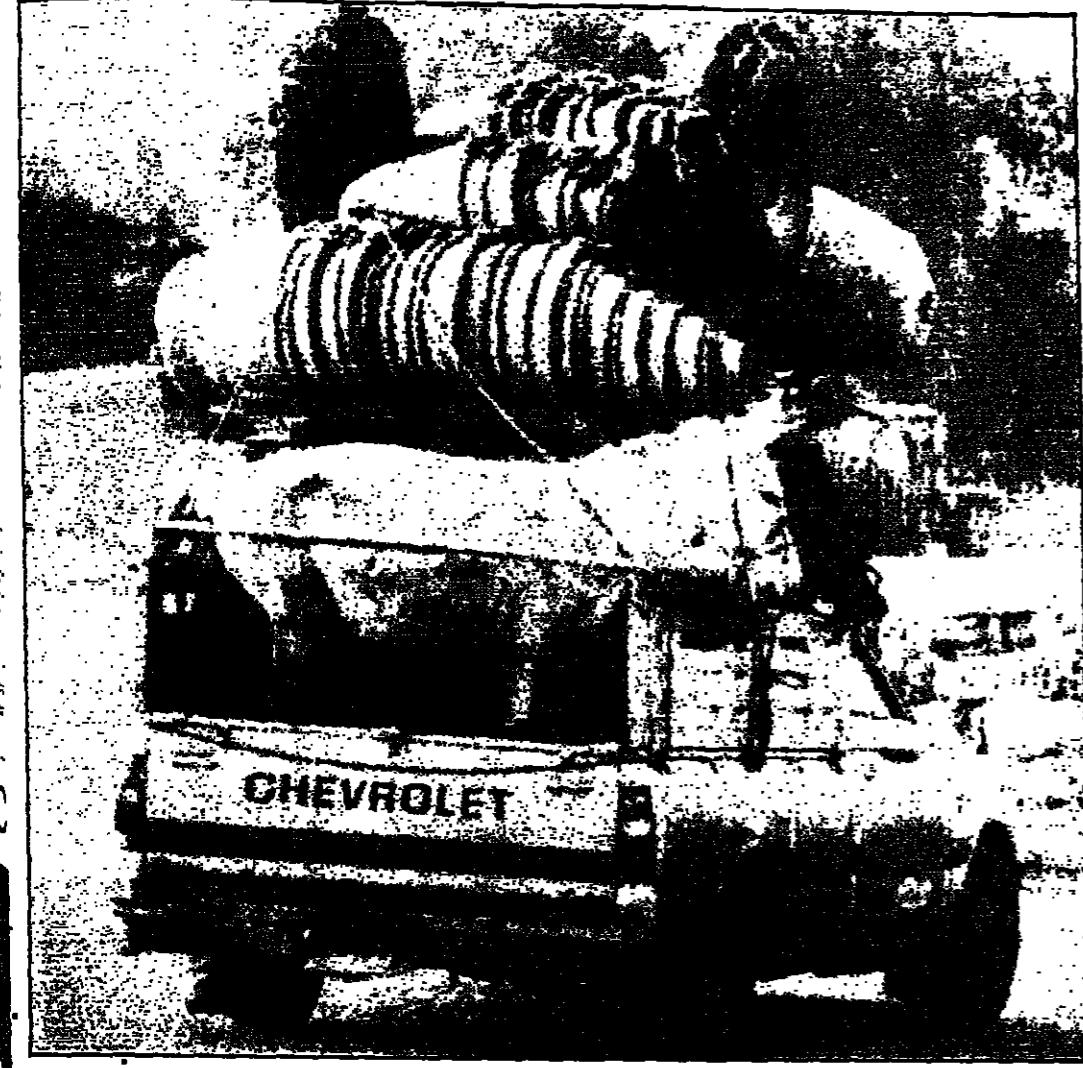
to service its foreign debt to 2.9 per cent of its gross domestic product in 1990.

Mexico last year disbursed \$12 billion in much needed hard currencies to service its debt.

Mexico's gross domestic product

in 1989 was \$200 billion.

Although it falls short of Mexico's initial expectations, the agreement will reduce Mexico's \$48.3 billion medium-term commercial debt by \$3 billion.



Prepared for the worst

This driver, on the old Cairo-Alexandria road, is prepared for the worst. He has two spare tyres and a

donkey tied to the back of his truck. (Reuter wire-photo)

Music on record

ROCK.

LITTLE RICHARD. "The Specialty Sessions" (Specialty, SPCD8308).

This three-disc CD retrospective of Little Richard's output on specialty documents one of the wildest of all the early rockers in full, weird glory.

The package, which also exists as a five-LP set, consists of 19 tracks in chronological order, all recorded between 1955 and 1964. The box is of enormous historic value. It represents Richard's entire output for specialty, from his back-street hits such as "Pain Train," "Good Golly Miss Molly" and "Long Tall Sally" to the most obscure tracks, outtakes, demos, recently discovered masters and between-takes bangers.

Included are the original demos of "Baby" and "All Night Long," which got him signed to the label in 1955. The package also includes "Slipin' and Slidin'," alternate takes of "Kissin' City," and a series of radio commercials Richard did for Royal Crown hair dressing in the '50s.

The tracks are annotated extensively in a 32-page booklet, which also includes a historical overview and some vintage photos.

JAZZ

THE big Carla Bley Band, "Fleur Carnivore" (MCA 71-839, \$39.98).

Carla Bley revived her big band for a 1988 European tour that culminated with a recording at Copenhagen's Montmartre Jazz Club. While her sound and writing has a very personal stamp, Bley's big band music is rooted heavily in the swing tradition. Much of the colouring and subtleties have an Ellington tinge.

That is particularly evident on the title cut, which was commissioned to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Ellington's death. Structurally, the most intriguing offering is "Song of the Eternal Waiting of Canute," and not for the name. It blends a breezy flamenco feel with some tango, call-and-response between trombonist Gary Valentine and the brass section, and an ensemble horn sound that is downright gorgeous.

Bley and friends have come up with another winner. (UPI)

CLASSICAL

JAMES LEVINE, piano, ensemble Wien-Berling, "Poulenc: Chamber Music" (Deutsche grammophon, 427 639).

When you have a big wart on your nose, it's probably not a good idea to take life too seriously.

A psychobiography of Francois Poulenc in one sentence.

Whatever the reason, Poulenc, whose proboscis really was so adored, composed amusing, sometimes outright funny music.

Some critics (the ones you hope you never meet at parties) mistake light-hearted for light-weight. It is no accident that one of Poulenc's more serious works, "Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani," is called a masterpiece, while his witty "Concerto For two Pianos" languishes.

Ensemble Wien-Berlin has produced a collection of five chamber works that shows what memorable music Poulenc could produce when aiming simply to entertain.

His "Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon" is out-and-out fun. James Levine (yes, the same one who conducts at the Metropolitan opera), Hans Schellenberger and Milan Turčinovit do it well.

"Sonata for Clarinet and Piano," more serious, is less appetizing until its scampering finale. Karl Leister has nice clarinet tone.

"Sonata for Flute and Piano" is wonderful throughout, one of Poulenc's finest compositions and a highlight of classical music's flute repertory. Wolfgang Schulz plays it ably.

"Elegie" for horn and piano is a stunner. An ever-so-serious opening is interrupted by a motif so different and so wild it has to be a gag. Gunter Höhner does.

All return for a "Sextet" that is billed as being influenced by Stravinsky, but which sounds more to this listener as if it reflects to Schenker's "chamber symphony," especially the famous horn call in rising fourths, which is quoted directly and at the same pitch in the finale.

A beautifully engineered recording, packed with more than 70 minutes of music. (UPI)

Algerians in stitches

ALGIERS. (Reuter): The Rolling eyes, clasped face and Chaplinesque quirks of comedian Mohammed Fellag have Algerians in stitches — in a country that badly needs a laugh.

"I don't spare anything," said Fellag with an impish grin after another packed house in the posh Riad El-Feth recreational complex.

Fellag, 39, has made artistic history in Algeria by breaking one taboo after another in one-man plays that combine slapstick with sharp political satire.

Nothing escapes his wit, be it sex, religion, censorship, the one-party state that ruled Algeria for 27 years or the troubled democracy now replacing it.

Muslim fundamentalists went on the war-path after his 1989 play *Cocktail Khorovtsov* was televised nationally and brought jokes about condoms into millions of Algerian homes.

After denunciations in the mosques, one anonymous letter read, "you are a Salman Rushdie. I am going to kill you."

Fellag remains unruffled and irrepressibly iconoclastic. His new play *SOS Le Bas (SOS everything's fine)* is sold out a month in advance.

"I try to touch our taboos, to scratch where it hurts a little," he told Reuters. "I often talk about sex because I know it's an enormous hang-up with us, and you can't get to the Algerian soul without touching it."

Drifting in and out of French and Algerian Arabic as Algerians often do, Fellag presents his version of an evening on state television,

long the butt of jokes for its stale programming and strait-laced morality.

The newscaster keeps repeating, "everything is absolutely fine." But as the audience well knows, the economy is a mess, fundamentalism is on the rise and a nascent democracy sometimes looks like chaos.

Foreigners who do not know Algerians well often find them dour, and Fellag comments, "Algerians have an enormous potential to laugh that never found an outlet. The political system was just too serious," referring to the one-party socialist state created at independence from France in 1962.

One videotaped scene depicts a fictional Algerian space programme in which the astronaut never gets off the ground — but is convinced an extraterrestrial creature has stolen his burns.

Another shows Fellag the TV reporter wrapping up the day's fluctuations on "Wall Street" — an Algiers sidewalk crammed with black-market cassette players where the din is worth one-fifth its official value.

He wonders if Algeria is not becoming a banana republic — "without the bananas," a reference to the popular fruit's scarcity in Algerian stores.

An Algerian bewildered by the sudden outbreak of democracy seeks advice from his doctor.

"Every day there are strikes, and demonstrations, and a new political party. Everybody shouts all the time. Don't you have any pills to keep my head from spinning?"

The patient complains.

"The only remedy is to form your own party," replies the doctor.

Fellag acts out courses for unemployed youths on how to pick up girls, and describes the housing minister's horror on seeing customs agents burn two million condoms.

"Every condom burned is another house to build," he laments, thinking of the country's demographic explosion.

Fellag shocked Algerians last year when he became the first to use his native Berber language on television. Berber, the original language of North Africa, has until recently been shunned in the media as part of an Arabisation policy.

There is one subject on which Fellag becomes quite serious — Islamic fundamentalists, the largest opposition force in Algeria, which he describes as "a threat to the development and balance of this society."

A bus overtakes the theatre when Fellag acts out the last scene, his own apocalyptic vision of a fundamentalist future.

"Did you hear they've bought the Berlin wall at an auction and put it back up in Algeria — with men on one side and women on the other?"

The men prove unable to care for themselves. Garbage, filth and disease overtake them while the women build a prosperous community full of sweet-smelling gardens.

As the curtain falls, Fellag is on the floor crying out across the wall: "Come back, forgive us, you can do anything you want."

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Immediate therapy for spine curvature

QUESTION: My daughter's school provides regular examinations by the school nurse to make sure that all is developing correctly. After just such an exam, I received a note from the nurse stating that my daughter was developing a condition named "scoliosis" and required a physician's examination. Please help me by explaining this condition in your column.

ANSWER: It is imperative that you take the advice of the school nurse and see your physician. Most of the cases of scoliosis (a medical name for curvature of the spine) are discovered in just such school screening examinations and medical referral is always indicated.

No one is sure just what the cause of scoliosis is, but we do know some important things. Young girls fall

prey to this condition about twice as frequently as boys and their curvature is usually worse. If there is a history of scoliosis in the family, the chance of a child developing it is about three times more likely.

Treatment will depend upon the amount of curvature detected on X-rays. If there's a curve of less than 20 degrees from normal, most cases are merely observed closely without any

treatment other than a programme of exercise, muscle stretching and strengthening.

A great number of different types of braces are now being used in the United States, and the use of light-weight plastic has made this type of treatment much more acceptable to youngsters who can wear the braces under their clothing and have a great deal of freedom of motion.

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI): Long before Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union, Leesa Vinnichenko came up with her own version of glasnost by fleeing to the West.

The blonde, round-faced, plump actress needs only a bubska to complete the picture of a Russian peasant, a character she has been playing in Hollywood movies and TV shows for more than 20 years.

For years the native of Nalchik on the Black Sea was the only Soviet-born actress working regularly in American films — a distinction that has been a mixed blessing.

"I have always been called in when a role required a Russian woman," she said.

"But many times the parts went to American actresses putting on accents, Oriental, Mexican and Indian actors are protesting against such practices, but there aren't enough Russians to make a noise for casting ethnic performers."

"There were countless Russian roles I didn't get, so I have been obliged to play other ethnic minorities, including all kinds of Europeans. I couldn't eat if I depended on playing Russians."

"Anyhow, most Russian parts call for villains and almost all of them are men."

She has played French, Germans, Scandinavians even an American doctor in an episode of "Doogie Howser, M.D."

"I was cast in the only colour episode of a 'Perry Mason' TV show, playing a Mexican woman with a black wig. Because of my blue eyes there were not too many closeups."

Most often, however, she plays women named Freda, Svetlana, Helga and Olga.

With the advent of glasnost, Vinnichenko finds herself coming out of the closet.

"For my whole career I was in the closet," she said. "I arrived as an actress at the time of the McCarthy hearings when all things Russian were suspect and looked down upon. I did not advertise the fact I was Russian."

Now that she is able to speak proudly of her heritage, Vinnichenko expects more acting competition from Soviet immigrants who find their way to Hollywood. She does what she can to help them find agents and make contacts.

"There are only about five competent Russian actresses in town right now," she said. "There are many more actors."

"But no Russian has become really prominent since Leonid Kinskey and Mischa Auer."

"There will be more Russians coming to Hollywood, but the difficulty is that the main tool of the actor is language. It is terribly hard for an adult Russian to learn to speak English without an accent."

"For example there is Saveli Kramarov, who was Russia's biggest superstar, a favourite of the Kremlin. He is here now but he can only find small roles. The same is true of Vladimir Skomarovskiy. He was very famous in the Soviet Union."

"Vladimir is a genius, but cannot prove it in Hollywood films. He is Jewish. It is easier for Russian Jews to get out of the country than it is for non-Jews. As far as I know, I'm the only Russian actress here who is not Jewish."

A hearty, good-natured woman, Vinnichenko says Russians in the film community are not clannish.

"I don't know why most of them do not

hang around with other Russians," she said. "Yakov Smirnoff prefers the company of Americans because he must keep abreast of cultural trends, gossip and expressions for his comedy act."

"There is a different mentality among Russians when they isolate themselves. We're a very strange breed. We are not as supportive of one another as other minority groups. That's because we come from deprivation and shortages."

"Russians establish themselves and are afraid new arrivals from the Soviet Union will take things like jobs away from them. They feel the newcomers' success will diminish the possibility of their success."

"I don't want to sound lofty or self-satisfied. It is only because I have been in America long enough to think and feel like an American."

"I've been here since 1955 so I suppose I am another Russia in Hollywood. The new arrivals know who I am and come to me for help."

"The more Americans give to someone else, the more they have for themselves. I am American citizen."

Stars making big business on the side

IF you find yourself in need of a dried flower bouquet or hand-made cowboy boots, Robert Redford will be happy to oblige.

For the former Sundance Kid has launched a Sundance mail order catalogue selling off for years to come and joining the growing movement of celebrities who start their own small business on the side.

The bouquet (yours for \$25), and boots (to you, a mere \$29) are competing with such merchandise as Joan Collins' costume jewellery to convince us they are star buys.

Eating like a star — or like a star would have you eat offers even more choice. On the menu are Paul Newman's pasta sauces, Sammy Davis' condiments, Ken Kesey's pop corn and pickles from Mash's Jamie Farr, who plays Klinger.

But the competition is honest in the perfume market where newest-comers Muhammad Ali and Debbie Gibson are joining Liz Taylor, Cher, Linda Evans, Joan Collins, Bjorn Borg, and John Forsythe in pursuit of the sweet smell of commercial success.

Priscilla Presley is believed to be working on a fragrance of her own while Julio Iglesias talks afternoons with a bunch of money men.

Fitness, too, has become a big earner for the stately likes of Jane Fonda, Raquel Welch, Victoria Principal and Linda Evans with their advice books, records and videos.

While Liz Taylor has proved if you are big enough you can have your cake and eat it, with her book "Elizabeth Takes Off," she watched the cash pour into her bank account as fast as the pounds were returning to her frame when she abandoned her diet afterwards.

Elizabeth Takes Off again cannot yet be ruled out.

The whole point of star selling is that we are being offered not just a pair of earrings or bottle of scent but a dream. Eat it, wear it, read it, watch it, and you too will be all beautiful, successful, and glamorous.

That hyper-sensitive workaholic with the Midas touch, Joan Collins, has even tried her hand at novel writing with *Prime Time*. The critics panned it, but they did not stop her.

She made a scene when she thought she had lost a £30,000 diamond bracelet then found it in her handbag. She says: "It convinced me to start my own line in costume jewellery. I couldn't stand the worry of losing it."

Worry her it might but it would not break her. For, on top of her huge acting and authoring incomes and the jewellery profits, she is pulling in £100,000 a year for endorsing Scent-creams plus five per cent of sales, or about another £70,000 per annum.

If that is not peanuts, Elizabeth.

More than £2 million has gone into his pet project, *The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp*, for children with leukaemia and other cancers, named after the bunch of villains who co-starred with him and Redford in *Breach*.

Much-married Liz, who is considering taking the plunge again with a building worker and fellow graduate of the Betty Ford booze clinic Larry Fortenberry, 20 years her junior, did work for it.

She travelled the length and breadth of America pushing *Passion*



Joan Collins (left). Julio Iglesias.

"Car-washing, opening shops, anything."

Sundance mail order is not Robert Redford's first venture into commerce.

The actor, who also named his Utah estate Sundance Valley after the film that made him a star back in 1969, has a ski resort there with restaurants, gift shops and a cinema.

Meet a neighbour

Bahrain's most popular hotelier

Mohammed Buzizi

By Yaqub Razzaque
Arab Times Staff

HOTEL business in Gulf is relatively a new industry just under two decades old. Traditionally Arabs, including Gulf nationals, have looked down upon this field to earn their livelihood. Generally Arab youth have been reluctant to pursue a career in the hotel and catering industry, which they tend to consider a 'low-grade and financially unrewarding occupation.' Conscious of their social status young Arabs are also not attracted to a service-oriented career which involves serving food, cooking and general chores.

However times are now changing. Development of tourism and the construction of an increasing number of hotels of all classes throughout the Gulf states have slowly but steadily been attracting young Gulf nationals to join this potentially rewarding industry. Nationalisation policy in the labour market, severe competition and limited employment options have also compelled some youngsters to have second thoughts and give this novel form of occupation as far as Gulf Arabs are concerned, a try.

Back in the sixties there were hardly any Bahrainis in the hotel business for the simple reason that there were no first class hotels in existence. But with the operation of the island's first genuine international hotel, the Gulf Hotel in 1970, a number of young nationals took the initiative to 'experiment' in this unknown career.

Mohammed Buzizi ranks among that first bunch of Bahraini pioneers in the hotel industry and today is generally regarded as the best known and

most popular hotelier in the country. This feat was achieved over the years by qualities of hard-work, perseverance and above all determination. For indeed Buzizi's climb to the pinnacle of his profession belongs to the realm of success-story where one works one's way from the mundane environment of a kitchen to the posh office of the general manager.

But what strikes out as an extraordinary brilliant fact is the way this enterprising young Bahraini managed to literally hire himself into his new place of work. A twist of reversed psychology was evident here on that day of job interview when instead

of being asked questions by the general manager, an Englishman, Buzizi ended up interviewing his prospective boss himself.

"I found myself doing most of the talking and asking more questions simply because I wanted to find out what kind of career I was getting into. It may have been an unusual approach but I only wanted to ensure I was making the right career decision," reminisced Buzizi.

After the initial shock of being 'interviewed' died down, the English hotel boss was deeply impressed by this young man's extraordinary approach to a job interview session and offered him a position in the hotel.

"I am proud to say that I did everything I was told to do. I was never ashamed to perform the most menial tasks assigned to me. I was sure that one day soon I would go on to bigger and better things," said Buzizi.

Sure enough, he was put in the sales team in the hotel and the subsequent years saw him rise to the top. Periods of training stints in sales followed and took him to some of the World's leading hotels including the Dorchester in London and the Shangri-La in Singapore. After successfully serving as the Sales Director of Gulf hotel, in 1984 he was promoted to his present position as the general manager.

Buzizi is adamant that the hotel industry can provide a rewarding career for his countrymen in the near future.

"I believe that there is a tremendous scope for Bahrainis to do well in this field. The country boasts of a hotel training centre with all the facilities. With the development of tourism in the country on a large scale there will be a large number of hotels coming up with many jobs. Sooner or later Bahrainis must and will occupy most of the positions in

this industry over the next few years. We are doing our best to help the government to achieve this goal."

However Buzizi, who is also the chairman of the general managers committee of deluxe hotels in Bahrain, cautions that young nationals must be prepared to work long hours and accept reasonable salary initially before progressing to the management level.

"Some youngsters have this illusion of becoming managers of hotel overnight. If they really expect to do well in this line they must be patient and work hard. Everybody must start from the bottom here. Work satisfaction and financial gain will come eventually with experiences," said Buzizi.

According to Buzizi one of the most satisfactory aspects of working as a hotelier is the opportunity to travel to different countries and meet different people.

"I love travelling and I am glad that my work allows me this luxury. Everyday here is different. I enjoy my job as it is always interesting."

Like most hotel bosses he is always on the move and there is never a dull moment for him. Whether it is attending an international hotel conference abroad or welcoming one of his numerous guests, Buzizi sparkles just like his personality.

A man who fits his job like a glove, Buzizi with his brilliant elegance, vibrant sense of humour and debonair charm enthralls his guests at all times. A confirmed bachelor in his mid-twenties 'married to the hotel', he epitomises the spirit of good fun and entertainment with a five-star touch.



The Beauty and Spirit of Japan

During Japan Week 1990, there will be a traditional programme presented by Japanese Folk Dance Ensemble. This will include:

Prologue: Festival Lion

As lions are regarded as the messengers of the gods, lion dances are often found in festivals in Japan.

Girls Dance

Passed down in a snowy northern city in Japan, this elegant dance is said to have been one of the original inspirations behind Kabuki dance. The graceful costumes and fans recall the painted screens of ancient Japan. This performance features a selection for three girls selling firewood and flowers.

Demon Sword Dance

Passed down in Northeastern Japan, this virile dance features demon masks and strong gestures. It is traditionally performed to console the spirits of the dead. There are many variations, with the three-dancer version performed today being the most colourful.

Spider Dance

This dance, preserved at Kyoto's Mibu Temple, is based on a well-known legend. 800 years ago, the ruler was suffering from a mysterious disease. At night a spider emanating a malicious power slips into the palace. The dance depicts the struggle between the spider and the shogun's brave retainers. The highlight is the battle scene, when the spider

casts out numerous webs that create a unique atmosphere on the stage.

Songs and Dances of Tsugaru

This number features songs and dances from the very northern tip of the Japan's main island. There is music for a folk instrument noted for its rhythmic and vigorous performing style, as well as dancing to similar folk songs of the same region.

Drum of the War God

This dance depicts an episode from the medieval period of civil wars (15-16c). The general had sent his armies to invade the territories of the neighbouring general's clan. To warn his warriors and drive back the enemy, the god of war beats furiously on his great drum, displaying a variety of terrifying expressions.

Battle with the Great Serpent

This dance is based on a story from myth and is typical of one of the oldest strains in Japanese dance, and was performed as an offering to the gods. To pacify an evil serpent, an aged father and mother fear that they must sacrifice their beloved daughter. But the heroic god intervenes to defeat the serpent. First, he filled a huge tub with rice wine and set it out. When the serpent came to eat the young girl, it saw the wine, drank it, and became sleepy. After a ferocious battle, the hero defeated the serpent. In the tail of the dead serpent, he found a splendid sword, which has been transmitted as one of the Three Sacred Treasures of the Japanese Imperial House. Do not forget the special date: February 5, 1990. For tickets, reservation and information, contact the Embassy of Japan on 5312870.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmyah
Hall Booked
Al Hamsa
Ninja Operation
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Bandhan Anjaana
Fahsheel
Anjaana
Al Jabra
Maz Bati
Grozada
Arabic film
Salahibkut
The Boy Who Could Fly
Jeeb
Fakira
Almadi Drive-in
Licence to Kill

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ghoraba Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 7)
11.45 That's incredible: Foreign variety programme
12.25 News summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown
EVENING
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via satellite (repetition)
4.45 Salam Al Fadha: cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq:

historical serial (part 14)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqoob Al Youssi
7.45 Deewaniyat Shuara Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 12)
10.45 Al Ittez: Arabic late night feature, starring Abbas Al Nouri
11.00 Samiya Jazayeri, Ahmad Addas and Layla Jaber
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy

Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Over the Hill". Nick has an accident and shows all indications of suffering a 'heart' attack. Home from the hospital, Nick returns to his normal activities only to find all his friends doing too much for him.
7.00 The Celts. "The Man with the Golden Shoe". A look at the Celtic tribes that lived in Europe before Christ. Their civilization, traditions and social behaviour...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Wildside. "Buffalo Who!". A terrorist claims that he is "Buffalo Bill" arrives to Wildside with his band for presenting certain shows.... But Brodie

and the Chamber of Commerce members discover their real mission and plan to stop them!
9.30 Coach. "I Am Sorry." Hyden realises that his friend's widow is against sport activities and plans to contribute a great part of his wealth to other societies.
10.00 Q.E.D. Putting You in the Picture. A look at modern cinema called "Emax" which gives the audience a special audio and video effects... An interview with two Canadian Engineers who developed this new type of film.
10.30 Bestseller. "Around the World in 80 Days." Fog and his companions arrive in San Francisco. The wife of the Indian Maharaja returns to India.
12.00 News in brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Kuwait

Al Tharban Pharmacy
Arabian Gulf St.
Al Omar Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kafir St.
Hawalli and Nagra Hawalli Pharmacy

Tunis St

Salmiya and Ramcihiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahsheel and Almadi Al Flaj Pharmacy

Makkah St.

Khitan
Al Fahd Pharmacy
Homoud Al Khaled Bldg.
Jahra
Al Abrar Pharmacy
Dubai Al Khozae St.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zadiqai Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Stamp Show 1990
IN commemoration of the 29th National Day, the Boushahir Gallery will be holding a stamp exhibition, Stamp Show 1990. The exhibition will open on Monday, February 5, 1990 at 6 pm and will be held until Feb 15. Opening hours (from second day on) are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 pm to 8.30 pm.

...Like a Hurricane!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265, 2543219.

Craft Centre
MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 271212.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounscarant Astana Diar" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Finalists) on 16th February 1990. This can all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Ita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Shangri) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Ladies International League

YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, 1990 at Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxime. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March at Messilah Beach Hotel.

For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 3912316.

Punjabi Cultural Society

PUNJABI Cultural Society in Kuwait is celebrating the 117th birth anniversary of great Punjabi Poet Padam Bhawan Bhai Vir Singh on Feb 9, 1990 at 6.30 pm, at the Indian Embassy Auditorium. The noted Punjabi writers, poets and singers will participate. Everybody is welcome.

ACT

ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Satwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, Feb 4, 10 am, at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka Room. Please make an effort to attend. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

HOTELS

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SPORTS

Coaching classes

COACHING classes for new referees, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees' Association, Kuwait (IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may con-

Customs authority, Rubaiya contract

A contract of copiers' delivery was signed by Abdul Latif Saleh Al Saeed, representing the Customs Public Authority as their general manager & Yousef Al Wahidi representing Kuwait Rubaiya General Trading & Contracting Company, (Utaxauthorised dealer) as their Assistant G.M. financial & administration affairs. Also were present, Ameen Fadel Al Medress financial & technical manager, Anad Fahad Al Sahl assistant Financial & Technical Manager, and Jamal Fahmi Sharawi Techniquip manager for Rubaiya. Whereby the contract makes Rubaiya supply the Custom Public Authority with 15 of Utax's most advanced copiers.



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MARGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



MADATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



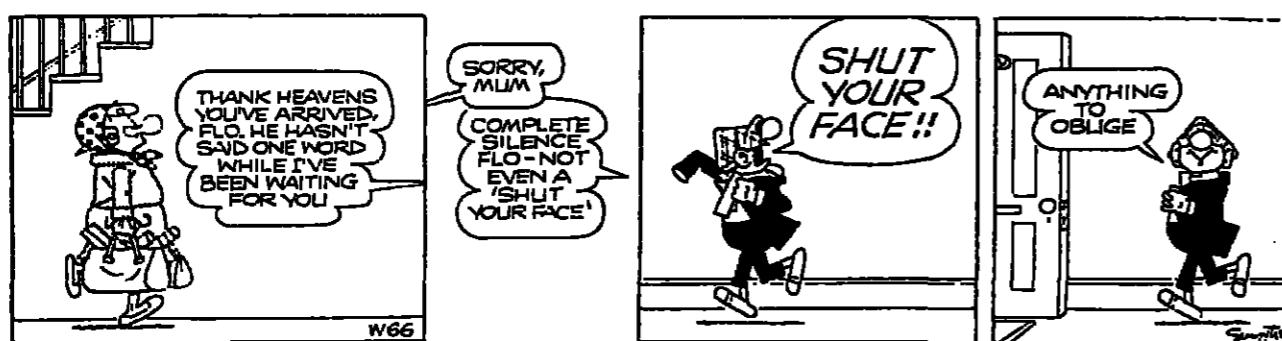
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



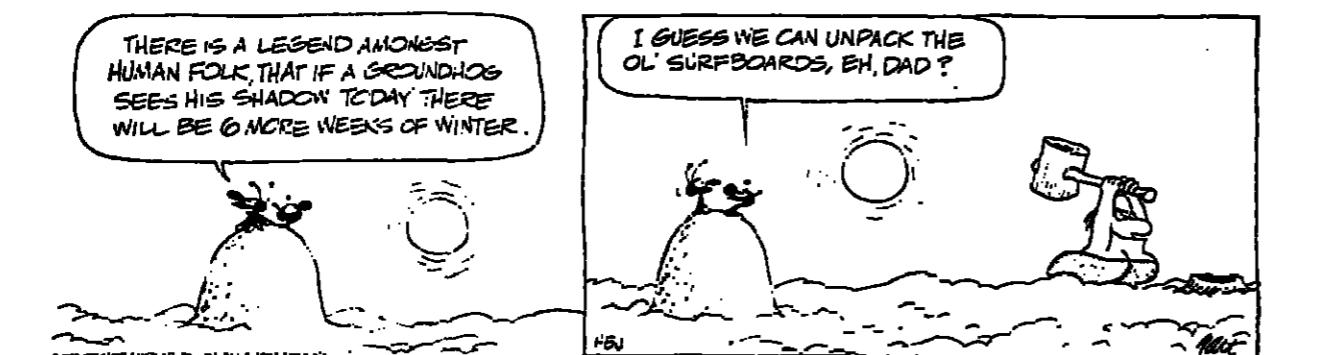
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



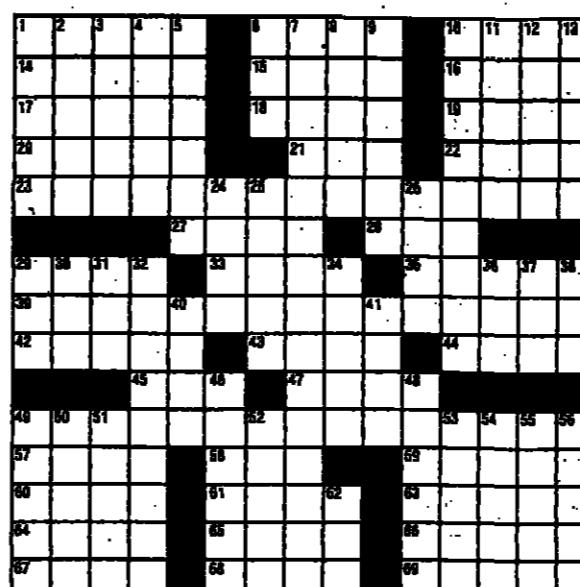
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



GOREN'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Neon et al.
 6 Woodwind
 10 College cheers
 14 Goddess of peace
 15 Rue — Paix
 16 Assam silkworm
 17 Cousin of a heron
 18 Yales
 19 Confined
 20 Glides
 21 Wall climber
 22 Wavy, in heraldry
 23 Abet
 27 Ritzy
 28 — disant: self-styled
 29 Choir member
 33 British bye-bye
 35 Some is good
 39 Beginning of a Cervantes observation
 42 Thespian ruse
 43 Son of Seth
 44 Bronte's Jane
 45 Govt. agcy.
 47 Speaks
 49 "Marry in haste, we may —"; Congreve
 57 Loki's realm of disgust
 59 Go in
 60 Sound from a steeple
 61 Marvin and Majors
 63 Spanish queen
 64 Whether —
 65 Regarding
 66 Ignited again
 67 Pack away
 68 Wing, Comb-form
 69 "There — atheists..."

DOWN
 1 German psychologist Wilheim: 1890-1935
 2 Inert gas
 3 Ice pinnacle
 4 January, in Juarez
 5 Establishes
 6 Keats' output
 7 "Let... was..."; Genesis
 8 Popeye's pal
 9 — pie
 10 Discoun
 11 Gladiator's milieu
 12 A language of N. India
 13 Filled
 24 Newspaper section
 25 "Let us run into — harbor"
 26 — bene
 29 Desert robe
 30 Fleur-de-
 31 Before cycle
 32 Fraternal order member
 34 " — and his money..."
 36 Retiring
 37 Palmer —
 38 Bora
 39 Palindromic word
 40 Connery from Edinburgh —
 41 Italian noble family
 46 "I wore — and you..."
 48 Nevada or Leone
 49 Reclaims: Abbr.
 50 Chris of the courts
 51 Instrument for Watts
 52 Representative
 53 Scomful expression
 54 Useful
 55 Proteolytic enzyme
 56 Poetry muse
 62 Indian weight

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
 EDGED SEW DEMIT
 GROVE ABE ERODE
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 TEEPEE SCANTLY
 NEREID INE
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 ODOR CARTE DONE
 LEDA EMIT PILOT
 GOD SOARED
 LOBELIA MERCER
 AVI ENCAMPS OSE
 POT OF GOLD ELATE
 ELEMELI ROI NOSED
 LOREN NEV TOTES

YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 19

You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure your partner is taken into your confidence. Do not interfere in what does not concern you. Be tactful.



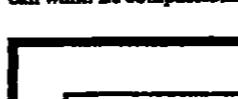
Taurus
 April 21 - May 20

Avoid extravagance but do not be mean either. You will be able to make an important decision about a matter that has been troubling you. And once you have made it do not delay. Be reasonable.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20

You should pay a little more attention to the state of your health. Do not spend money you have not got in the hope of a windfall. Do not try to run before you can walk. Be compassionate.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20

You should not try to do many things all at once. You will tend to be forgetful so do not spurn side memories. Something you have been trying to learn will now fall into place. Be tidy.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug 22

You should not neglect your personal life and should take your mind off work for the day. An offer or proposal should be studied carefully before you accept it. Be less selfish.



Virgo
 Aug 22 - Sept 22

You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do but it will prove something of a disappointment. You should think a little more constructively. Take your mind off gloomy thoughts and look on the bright side. Be fair.



Libra
 Sept 23 - Oct 22

You should not try to avoid controversial situations. And if you try to keep up with some to do with neighbours you could well come to grief. Show a little more concern for others. Be generous.



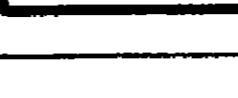
Scorpio
 Oct 23 - Nov 22

You will be able to solve a mystery, but you should avoid guesswork and jumping to conclusions. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet or starchy foods. Think once again before you make up your mind. Be amenable.



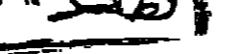
Sagittarius
 Nov 23 - Dec 22

Something you are learning will take longer than you thought but you should persevere. You are liable to be short-tempered and should do your best to restrain yourself. Listen to what others are saying. Be sincere.



Capricorn
 Dec 23 - Jan 20

You will not be in the best of moods so try to avoid controversial situations. And do your best not to get on anyone's nerves. You will be able to avoid making a bad mistake. Be truthful.



Aquarius
 Jan 21 - Feb 19

Something you had feared might happen will not. If you ask for more than you deserve you will be disappointed. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 27. You should not dwell too much on the past; live more in the present. Be polite.

Pisces
 Feb 20 - March 20

A few hours spent tidying up will save a lot of toil at a later date. Make sure you do not exceed any limits whether of speed or of safety or of propriety. Try to avoid heavy expenditures. Be frank.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

SLIP ONE, KNIT TWO!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 10 9 7 5
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ A 7 4 3
 ♠ Q

WEST
 ♠ J 6 4
 ♦ 5 3
 ♣ Q 10 9 6 5
 ♠ R J 8 2
 ♠ 10 5

EAST
 ♠ A
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ Void
 ♠ A K 9 8 7 4 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A
 ♦ A 7 6 4
 ♣ Void
 ♠ A K 9 8 7 4 3 2

The bidding:

South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
 4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

We are indebted to *5th Column*, published by District 5 of the American Contract Bridge League, for today's hand. The bidding was not given, but it might have gone as

Since a jump to three clubs would not be forcing, South creates a one-round force by rebidding at the two-level in a suit ranking higher than his original strain. North's four diamonds is a cue-bid implying

There was a very elegant counter available, and declarer found it. After winning the first trick in dummy, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and discarded the ace of spades from hand! The king and queen of spades were then cashed for two heart punches and, when both lived, declarer fulfilled his contract, losing only a heart trick.



"OK, a cheeseburger for you. What about the Statue of Liberty over here?"

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KUWAIT City, behind the GPO, one room for 2 Goen bachelors to share with a Goen family. Also 1 room for 1 bachelor to share with another bachelor. Tel: 2449001 ext 660.

(AT6-51382-3)

Wanted

CITY, preferably Firdh Al Salem Street. Required for a single working lady. Tel: Mr Ayub, 2405283/4. (AT6-51341-3)

KUWAIT CITY, Jahra Road. Independent room required for a young bachelor to share with a family from 15th February or earlier. Tel: Saleem Kazi, 2434633, after 10.30 am.

(AT6-51337-3)

FLAT for sale with furniture, central AC, all Ikes furniture, as new, 2 bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, with electrical units. Must see. Tel: Imed, 5726252, 2-4.30 pm, after 8 pm.

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DINING table with 6 chairs, 4 easy chairs, side board, Hoover vacuum cleaner, UHF/VHF antenna with channel master. All in good condition. Tel: 5713777, 3-6 pm only.

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(AT6-51358-3)

IBM Compatible PC/XT, 640K with Hega card, enhanced colour monitor and Admatte printer. Hardly used. Tel: 5654035.

(AT6-51358-3)

IMPC-XT computer, 258Kram memory, EGA card, Samsung EGA monochrome monitor, 2-floppy disk drives, for KD200 only. Tel: 2407866. (AT6-51371-3)

Furniture

BEDROOM set and sofa set for sale. Tel: 5387549, 10 am-4 pm. (AT6-51322-3)

Cars

NISSAN Patrol, 4 wheel drive, 85 model, 1 door, white, 72,000 kms, insured upto Oct 90, in very good condition. KD1,600. Tel: 4884196, 2-9 pm only. (AT6-51360-3)

(AT6-51360-3)

NISSAN Liberta 1985, red, 4 doors, automatic, AC, 74,000 kms, insured upto Oct 1990. KD800. Tel: 2452047. (AT6-51365-3)

(AT6-51365-3)

mitsubishi Lancer 1983, manal, metallic blue, insured upto June 1990 in good condition. KD325, cash. Tel: Khan, 2511368, 3.30-11 pm. (AT6-51381-2)

(AT6-51381-2)

HONDA Civic EX, 1989 model, white, full options, KD3,440 due to Kuwait Finance House. KD80 per month by instalments. First due on 23rd February. Tel: Mohammad, 5740860/1 - mornings, 4767037/4739699 - evenings. (AT6-51319-3)

(AT6-51319-3)

REQUERED from Sharq behind the Burgan Bank H.O. to Jahra Hospital for ministry timings. Tel: 2420723. (AT6-51345-3)

(AT6-51345-3)

AVAILABLE from Salmiya to Shuwaikh or Kuwait City. Office or banking timings. Tel: Cliford, 5617492. (AT6-51348-3)

(AT6-51348-3)

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AVAILABLE from city to Salmiya, 1 pm or 1.30 pm. Tel: Arun, 2403376, 9.30 am to 11.30. (AT6-51363-2)

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PERSIAN cats, very cute and friendly, house trained, seven weeks old, silver shaded and assorted colours, for sale. Tel: 5741154. (AT6-51317-3)

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WALLET, on 30/1/90, evening, containing money & bank cards, identification, at Holiday Inn area. Reward offered to finder. Tel: Rolando Castillo, 2408274, any time. (AT6-51347-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

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MAID required for an Australian family with a young baby to live-in. Must have child-minding experience and transferable residence with references. Tel: 5622746. (AT6-51361-2)

MAID required Filipino, for a small family to live-in. Must be experienced and good with teenagers. Must have good command of English. Tel: 2613847, after 4 pm. (AT6-51362-3)

DRIVER required with a valid Kuwait driving licence for a house. Tel: 4813622/5. (AT6-51334-3)

MAID required, Indian, for a family, part-time from 6.30 am to 4 pm in old Khetan. Must speak English and have valid residence. Salary KD65. Tel: 4763523, 2-8 pm. (AT6-51330-3)

MAID required immediately (middle aged) for a family with one child to live-in in Riggas. Must speak English and have transferable residence. Tel: Mr. Hani, 4892584 ext 92, after 4 pm. (AT6-51348-3)

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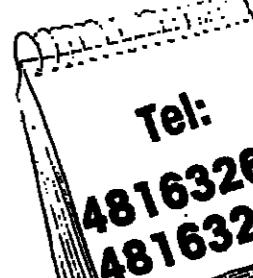
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JAHRA JOURNAL

SPORTS

New Zealand 459; India 97 for three

Hadlee one short of Test history



Hadlee: took three wickets today

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 3. (Reuter): Richard Hadlee, an unexpected participant in this contest, today hoisted himself to within one wicket of becoming the first bowler to capture 400 in Test cricket.

Needing four wickets to reach this milestone at the start on the second day of the first Test between New Zealand and India, at Lancaster Park, his home ground, Hadlee took two in his opening spell as India replied to towering New Zealand total of 459.

Hadlee ousted W.V. Raman and Sanjay Manjrekar in his first and fourth overs and when he returned for a second spell, four overs from the end of the day, he trapped Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin with his second ball.

Two of Hadlee's victims were trapped leg before. Raman fell to a poor shot, played right across the line.

Azharuddin, who was in sparkling form and had scored 48 off only 44 balls, was undermined by a ball that cut back sharply.

Manjrekar was on the front foot when he was caught off

pad by Jones off a Hadlee ball. The rest of the bowling presented no problems to the Indians although Sidhu, who remained unbeaten with 27, could have been among the casualties had he not been dropped at second slip off Danny Morrison, Hadlee's new ball partner.

India, at the close, were 97 for three in reply to the New Zealand total of 459. They still needed 163 runs to avoid the follow on.

The main contributor to this massive score was New Zealand's left-handed captain, John Wright, who made his highest Test score of 185, having batted for 55 minutes and hit 23 fours.

Wright and Mark Greatbatch, the only batsmen out in the morning session, shared a 125-run stand, which established a new record for New Zealand's fourth wicket against India.

Ken Rutherford took a hand in assaulting a tired Indian attack towards the end of the innings and made 69. Joining him in the assault, Hadlee scored a quick 28.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings
M. Greatbatch b W. Raman ... 46
M. Greatbatch b W. Raman ... 46
M. Greatbatch b W. Raman ... 46
M. Greatbatch b W. Raman ... 46

Raju ... 24
A. Jones c Venkatapathy ... 52
Raju b Hirwani ... 52
T. Franklin c Prabhakar b Kapil Dev ... 20
J. Wright b Venkatapathy ... 185
Raju ... 185
K. Rutherford b Kapil Dev ... 69
J. Bracewell b Hirwani ... 0
I. Smith bw Venkatapathy ... 9
Raju ... 9
R. Hadlee c Hirwani b Prabhakar ... 28
M. Sneddon bw Kapil Dev ... 3
D. Morrison not out ... 1
Extras (b-3 lb-12 nb-7) ... 22
Total ... 459
Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-131 3-182 4-307 5-374 6-375 7-394 8-448 9-454

Bowling: Kapil Dev 28.3-4-89-3.
Prabhakar 38-8-14-1. Wason, 25-3-95-1. Venkatapathy Raju 35-12-86-3.
Hirwani 29-9-80-2.

INDIA first innings

W. Raman lbw bowled Hadlee ... 0
N. Sidhu not out ... 27

S. Manjrekar c Jones b Hadlee ... 5

M. Azharuddin lbw b Hadlee ... 48

S. Venkateswamy Raju not out ... 7

Extras (b-4 lb-4 nb-2) ... 10

Total (for three wickets) ... 97

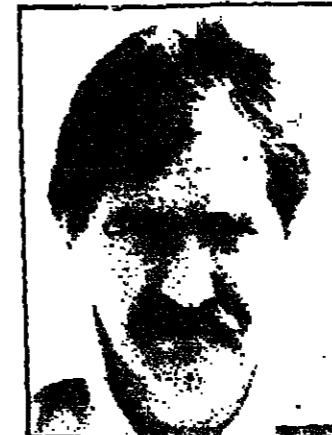
To bat: S. Tendulkar, M. Prabhakar, Kapil Dev, K. More, N. Hirwani, A. Wason

Fall of wickets: 1-27 2-73 3-88

Bowling: Hadlee 8-1-19-3. Morrison 6-0-44-0. Bracewell, 3-0-14-0. Sneddon 5-1-12-0.



Wayne Larkins



Graham Gooch

McLaren admitted after paying \$100,000

PARIS, Feb 3. (Reuter): The International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) yesterday gave the go-ahead to the McLaren team to take part in this year's Formula One world championship after the payment of driver Ayrton Senna's \$100,000 fine.

A Fisa statement said McLaren had apologised for the late payment of the fine, imposed for dangerous driving by the Brazilian in last October's Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka.

The federation this week gave McLaren a deadline of January 31 to pay the fine, threatening the sport's leading constructor with exclusion if it did not pay up.

However, the decision to admit McLaren did not solve the problem of the running battle between Fisa and Senna who must apply for a personal licence to compete before February 15.

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre has said Senna would be refused the licence unless he publicly retracts allegations that federation officials, including Balestre, rigged last year's world championship in favour of Frenchman Alain Prost.

The Brazilian has kept a low profile since Fisa made the demand early last month.

Senna made his allegations about Fisa rigging after the Suzuka race in which he was involved in a crash with then McLaren team-mate and arch-rival Prost, who was in the lead at the time.

Senna went on to win the race but was later disqualified. In a later disciplinary hearing he was given a six months suspended ban and fined \$100,000 for dangerous driving.

The Fisa statement made it clear Senna will not get his licence unless he meets the conditions. It said McLaren would be authorised to run two cars in Grands Prix, one driven by Austrian Gerhard Berger and the second to be designated.

The statement said: "The driver Ayrton Senna has paid the \$100,000 fine imposed by the International Appeal Tribunal of FIA (the International Automobile Federation) for the faults committed at the 1989 Japanese Grand Prix."

The team Honda Marlboro McLaren has expressed its excuses for the delay resulting from this situation. In consequence Fisa has accepted the engagement of two cars by the Honda Marlboro McLaren team, one with the driver G. Berger and a second with a driver to be designated.

A spokesman for McLaren said: "We are obviously very pleased to be in the championship and that all the speculation has come to an end."

Fisa accepted 35 cars and 19 teams in the world championship as follows:

Brabham (two cars); Larrousse (2); Onyx (2); Coloni (1); Tyrrell (2); Eurobrus (2); Osella (1); AGS (3); Minardi (2); Scuderia Italia (2); Williams (2); Arrows (2); March (2); Life Racing (1); Lotus (2); Benetton (2); McLaren (2); Ligier (2).

Interviewed on the private French television channel La Cinq, Balestre said Senna had gone halfway down the road to participating in the 1990 world championship by paying the fine.

"I believe after paying a \$100,000 fine, one can say that he has not spent the money in order not to participate in the championship this year," Balestre said. "He has gone halfway."

Larkins hits century as England prosper

and bowled.

Gooch, happy to have first use of an easy-paced wicket that blunted the Leewards pace attack, batted for 40 overs before he edged an outswinger from Winston Benjamin to wicket-keeper against the Leeward Islands yesterday.

Benjamin,

struck for four fours in his seven-over opening spell, had a sore right knee and was some way below his quickest.

Stewart, dropped when he had made 23, made the most of his good fortune to reach 65 not out off 188 balls.

England team manager Micky Stewart said: "The pitch was slow but it was gratifying that three of our batsmen got runs so early in the tour."

Larkins took 33 minutes to get off the mark and did not hit the first of his 12 boundaries until the 15th over when he struck Hanish Anthony for three fours in four balls.

After reaching his 50 in the 46th over, Larkins was fortunate to survive when Eldine Baptiste got his right hand to a return catch but could not hold on.

That was the only chance

Larkins gave in a dominant display on a perfect batting wicket.

He reached his century from 220 balls but after 320 minutes at the wicket he played a rather tired-looking drive and gave Keith Arthurton a simple caught

fall of wickets: 1-96 2-220

To bat: R. Bailey, N. Hussain, J. Russell, P. DeFreitas, K. Medycott, G. Small, O. Malcolm

Bowling: D. W. Benjamin 21-3-62-1, K. Benjamin 6-4-0, Anthony 15-4-50-0, Baptiste 22-6-51-0, Guindard 28-7-58-0, Arthurton 7-3-14-1

LEEWARDS ISLANDS — S. Williams, R. Bassett, R. Richardson (captain), K. Arthurton, R. Otto, H. Anthony, E. Baptiste, L. Hains, N. Guisard, W. Benjamin, K. Benjamin.

TOKYO, Feb 3. (Reuter): World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson sparred for four rounds in front of a sell-out audience of 700 today but most of the Japanese fans were unhappy with the champion's performance.

"I was very disappointed with Tyson," said a Tokyo high-school student, who paid 5,000 yen (\$35) and spent two hours riding in a train to get to the session. "I know this is a part of practice but it felt like I wasted my money."

"I came here to see Tyson's iron punch not ducking nor clinching."

The 23-year-old champion was tormented when he received a powerful left hook from former world heavyweight champion Greg Page in the starting round. Tyson had Page replaced by another sparring partner from the second round.

One member of the audience screamed after the first round: "Wake up, champ. You're strong. Wake up."

Throughout the sparring session, Tyson seemed to be concentrating on ducking and avoiding punches rather than hitting his opponent.

His chief trainer, Aaron Snowell, told reporters after the session: "We'll have to do something more on technical points and Mike has to punch more often... but Tyson is in good shape both physically and mentally."

Tyson spent half a hour more in the ring after the sparring match to check on details with two trainers. He shook his head many times.

James "Buster" Douglas, Tyson's 10th challenger, received more praise when he cornered his three different sparring partners with strong attacks, led by sharp left jabs.

"As far as today's sparrings are concerned, it is obvious who's going to win the match," another member of the audience said. "Tyson will sink."

Tyson has not seemed ready for the fight since he came to Japan on January 16 despite his comment that he was in top condition.

Tyson was knocked down once last Wednesday during practice in what his trainers called a slip. He was also reported to have a weight problem.

The 29-year-old challenger earlier said of the knockout that it was not a big deal. But he added: "You'll see a repeat of that."

Snowell said Tyson was prepared. "The important thing is determination to fight and he's got that all the time," he said.

Dress rehearsals

STOCKHOLM, Feb 3. (Reuter): European champions

the Netherlands have agreed to join Italy, Denmark and Sweden in a friendly tournament next year which will serve as a dress rehearsal for the 1992 European championship.

The women's mile proved to be a Romanian romp as Doim Melinte, Viorica Chician and Margareta Keszei finished one-two-three with indoor record holder Melinte winning in a sluggish 4:31.40.

Olympic 1,500-metre bronze medallist Jennifer Herold of East Germany was second in 3:59.59.

Coghlan, 37, whose seven victories in this race helped earn him the nickname of "Chairman of the boards," was in the hunt until the last lap when he fell back to finish fifth in 4:01.59.

"I just didn't have the zip I used to have in my legs that last lap," said Coghlan, who is making a comeback after a two-year lay-off.

The women's mile proved to be a Romanian romp as Doim Melinte, Viorica Chician and Margareta Keszei finished one-two-three with indoor record holder Melinte winning in a sluggish 4:31.40.

The most exciting finish of the 83rd annual games at Madison Square Garden came in the 600 yards when Butch Reynolds, the 400 meters world record holder, leaned past fellow-American Danny Harris at the tape to win in 1:09.22.

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The most exciting finish of the 83rd annual games at

City hold United to 1-1 draw

Liverpool move clear

LONDON, Feb 3. (Reuters): Liverpool beat city rivals Everton 2-1 to go three points clear at the top of the English First Division today as heavy rain in southern England washed out many of the League's top soccer fixtures.

In the day's other major derby — the 100th between the two teams in their First Division history — Manchester United stretched their depressing League run to 11 games without a win, struggling to a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester City.

Aston Villa, behind Liverpool on goal difference with 46 points before today, had their match at Queen's Park Rangers rained off but stayed second with two games in hand.

Champions Arsenal had their match at bottom-placed Charlton called off but kept their third place with 42 points. The two other First Division casualties were fifth-placed Southampton against Derby and Wimbledon against Luton.

Nottingham Forest strengthened their hold on fourth place by beating Crystal Palace 3-1 but Chelsea were dealt a body-blow at Coventry, losing 3-2 though they remained sixth in the table.

Tottenham play eighth-placed Norwich at home tomorrow.

While the downpour in the south dampened Villa's hopes, the sun in the north helped Liverpool to their 14th consecutive game without defeat and a derby double over their neighbours.

Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall was dazzled by the light and was unable to get to a ball lofted in from the right by Barry Venison, allowing England striker John Barnes to hit Liverpool's first goal in the 10th minute.

Everton, with five midfielders and four defenders, found they could do little to keep out a deter-



Peter Beardsley

mined Liverpool and went 2-0 down in the 30th minute when centre half Dave Watson handled a cross from England striker Peter Beardsley in the area.

Beardsley calmly beat South-

all with the low-hit penalty.

A headed goal by Scottish international striker Graeme Sharp in the 44th minute renewed Everton's hopes of avenging their 3-1 defeat at Goodison Park last year but it was not to be.

Manchester United, thrashed 5-1 by City last September, had a chance of revenge — and to relieve the pressure on beleaguered manager Alex Ferguson — when Clayton Blackmore put them ahead in the 70th minute. But their joy was short-lived.

Ian Brightwell equalised for City three minutes later to revive the visitors' hopes of their first derby double win in 20 seasons and their first away win in the First Division since 1986.

City had come under intense early pressure and United were unlucky to go ahead after 25 seconds when Welsh striker Mark Hughes went clear in the box but screwed his shot wide.

The draw spared Ferguson the embarrassment of watching his team slide into the relegation zone for the first time since he took over at the club three years ago.

Coventry made few mistakes against Chelsea, going one ahead after 27 seconds and two up within three minutes.

Goalkeeper Steve Orizovic belted the ball up the pitch and forward Steve Livingstone sped in for the first. The second was an own goal off defender Kevin McAllister.

Chelsea scored through England full-back Tony Dorigo in the 37th minute but two minutes later lost midfield Alan Dickens who had to be carried off with a knee injury.

Striker Kenny Dixon equalised in the 48th minute but veteran Coventry player Cyrille Regis made it 3-2 in the 70th.

Results

English Division One		
Coventry	3	Chelsea
Liverpool	2	Everton
Manchester U	1	Manchester C
Nottingham	3	Crystal P
Sheffield Wed	1	Millwall
Postponed:	Charlton v Arsenal	
Queen's Park Rangers v Aston Villa		
Southampton v Derby		
Wimbledon v Luton		
Playing Sunday:	Tottenham v Norwich	
Blackburn	1	Bournemouth
Bradford	0	Bromley
Hull	0	Sheffield U
Middlesbrough	2	Portsmouth
Plymouth	0	Wolves
Port Vale	2	Stoke
West Brom	2	Oldham
Postponed:	Brighton v Leicester	
Ipswich v Oxford		
Watford v West Ham		
Playing Sunday:	Newcastle v Sunderland	
Swindon v Leeds		
England Division Two		
Blackpool	3	Manfield
Bury	0	Shrewsbury
Cardiff	1	Wigan
Chester	3	Preston
Huddersfield	1	Leicester
Nottingham	1	Notts County
Postponed:	Birmingham v Bradford	
Bristol Rovers v Bristol City		
Walsall		
Leyton Orient v Bolton		
Northampton v Crewe		
Reading v Swansea		
England Division Three		
Cheltenham	3	Midtoste
Guildford	0	Portsmouth
Leeds	1	Wigan
Rocdale	2	Torquay
Scarborough	2	Colchester
Stockport	1	Aldershot
Postponed:	Exeter v Scunthorpe	
Gillingham		
Carshalton		
Hartlepool		
Playing Friday:		
Halifax	3	Cambridge
Southend	2	Doncaster
Scottish Premier Division		
Aberdeen	2	Hearts
Dundee	0	Celtic
Dundee	1	St Mirren
Hibernian	1	Motherwell
Rangers	3	Dundee U
Scotland Division One		
Aberdeen	2	Falkirk
Ayr	0	Partick
Clyde	0	Airdrie
Forfar	2	Raith
Hamilton	1	Clydebank
Morton	2	Alloa
St Johnstone	1	Meadowlark
Scotland Division Two		
Berwick	3	Arbroath
Cowdenbeath	4	E Stirling
Montrose	2	East Fife
Queen of S	1	Stenhousemuir
Stirling	1	Queen's Park
Stranraer	2	Brechin

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Graf nailed a pair of service winners to send the game to deuce and eventually won.

Later, with Graf leading 5-4 and serving for the first set, Maleeva again was up double-break point, but could not finish off the West German.

Graf said her own poor forehand service return helped her opponent. "I wasn't returning her second serve very well," said Graf, who is new 11-0 against Maleeva. "I can usually return it for some winners, but I was missing quite a few."

Graf said after her quarterfinal match that she expected a tough match from Maleeva and she wasn't disappointed.

Maleeva, who has only recently been attacking the net and playing less defensively, ran down almost everything and came up with some big shots when she needed them.

But when Graf fell behind, she turned to her powerful and consistent first serve to keep her in the match.

"Sometimes I was just trying to do too much,"

Graf said. "She likes to play somebody who plays fast and this surface suits her as well as me."

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Graf outlasts Maleeva

Sanchez tames Akiko

TOKYO, Feb 3. (UPI): World No. 1 ranked Steffi Graf and fifth-ranked Arantxa Sanchez will meet tomorrow in the finals of the \$350,000 Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament.

It will be the second meeting between the two since the 18-year-old Spaniard Sanchez stunned the 20-year-old West German in the finals of the 1989 French Open 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5.

Top-seeded Graf held off a determined No. 3 seed Manuela Maleeva 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals today and No. 2 Sanchez topped hometown favourite Akiko Kijima 6-4, 6-2 on the indoor artificial surface at Yoyogi gymnasium.

Maleeva, who is Bulgarian born but recently became a citizen of Switzerland, pressured Graf at every opportunity. However, she failed to return Graf's rocket serve when it counted most.

"The only thing I didn't do well was return her serve," said Maleeva, who is ranked eighth in the world. "I was mishitting her serve or returning it into the net. I had many break points but I never managed to break her."

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